

# 2004 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan







# 2004 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan



# Pathways to the Future

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Dear Marion County Resident:

The following pages contain the Indianapolis-Marion County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. This plan is the product of hundreds of hours of public input and participation, research and analysis by park professionals, and thorough review by park users.

This plan gives form and direction to Indy Parks and Recreation's mission and vision statements. For the next five years, this plan will be an intrinsic part of all Indy Parks' programs and activities, serving as a sounding board and guideline for department decisions. The conclusions and action steps detailed herein have been written to advance our mission and core services; ultimately to provide better parks and recreation services to Marion County residents.

On behalf of Mayor Peterson and the staff of Indy Parks, we thank those who took the time to participate in this important process. Public involvement is essential for Indy Parks to fulfill its charge as a steward of public lands.

The Implementation and Action Plan section of this document has been crafted to include actions that are targeted at making Indy Parks a better agency. Below is a sampling of some of these 65 actions.

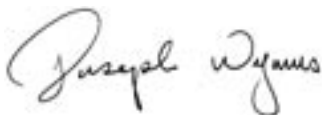
- Promote fitness activities in both active and natural parks.
- Work to preserve and enhance the integrity of George Kessler's Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System.
- Aggressively pursue a land acquisition program in rapidly developing areas of Marion County.
- Research opportunities to expand recreational services into areas of low service such as outlying townships.
- Work to engage all minority communities in city parks and park programs.
- Plan and construct more trails within park properties for walking, jogging and rollerblading.
- Complete greenway trails that have been started to fulfill commitments to those neighborhoods.
- Act as a leader in the area of brownfield re-use, focused on park and open space development.

Several actions were carried over from the 1999 Plan and included in an Ongoing List. These are activities that Indy Parks is already doing and is committed to continuing over the next five years.

- Continue to aggressively seek grants to support Indy Parks' efforts in programming, maintenance and capital improvement.
- Maintain the role of Park Rangers in enhancing environmental education programs.
- Continue to partner with the Marion County Health Department and other health providers to grow and expand the Indy in Motion program.

My thanks go to the dedicated people who contributed to this effort. Marion County is fortunate to have 190 beautiful parks and greenways, as well as appreciative park, recreation center and greenway users. This love of our natural lands is evidenced not only by this document, but also by the daily use of our park and recreation resources.

Sincerely,



Joseph Wynns  
Director



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## Credits

The overwhelming participation from the community leaders, residents, businesses, and institutions has made this 2004 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan possible. Indy Parks would like to thank everyone who participated in this public process. Indy Parks would like to especially thank:

### **Administration:**

Mayor Bart Peterson, City of Indianapolis

Carolyn Coleman, Deputy Mayor for Neighborhoods

### **City-County Council and Districts:**

Patrice Abdullah	15	Dane Mahern	19
Dr. Philip Borst	23	Angela Mansfield	2
Greg Bowes	7	Lynn McWhirter	6
Rozelle Boyd	AL	Mary Moriarty Adams	17
James Bradford	3	Jackie Nytes	9
Vernon Brown	18	William C. Oliver	10
Virginia J. Alig Cain	5	Marilyn Pfisterer	14
Bob Cockrum	22	Lincoln Plowman	25
Lonnell Conley	AL	Isaac Randolph, Jr.	1
N. Susie Day	20	Earl Salisbury	13
Sherron Franklin	12	Joanne Sanders	AL
Ron Gibson	AL	Scott Schneider	4
Monroe Gray, Jr.	8	Mike Speedy	24
Scott Keller	16	Steve Talley	11
Lance Langsford	21		

### **City-County Council Parks Committee:**

Monroe Gray Jr., Chair	Bob Cockrum
N. Susie Day	Ron Gibson
Dane Mahern	William C. Oliver
Earl Salisbury	

### **Metropolitan Development Commission:**

Ms. Sylvia Trotter, Vice President	Mr. James Curtic, Secretary
Mr. Harold Anderson	Mr. John M. Bales II
Mr. Lee Marble	Mr. Brian Murphy
Mr. Ed Treacy	Mr. Steven Stolen

# Pathways to the Future

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## **Board of Parks and Recreation**

Joseph Wynns, Chair

Richard J. Cockrum

Jacqueline S. Greenwood

Diana Wilson Hall

William H. Stinson

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## A STARTING PLACE

The Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation is the primary parks agency for the more than 860,000 residents of Marion County, Indiana. The Department's roots are within the pre-1969 boundaries of the City of Indianapolis. Since that time, the Department's jurisdiction has grown to the boundaries of the county. This encompasses the entire range of possible parks and communities. These include intensely urban plazas, small parks in declining urban neighborhoods, parks in middle-class suburban subdivisions and larger natural parks on the rural fringes of the county.

Because of the steady outward growth of Marion County's population, Indy Parks is challenged to balance the needs of the historic city parks with the needs of populations in the other eight townships. Half of this task is in operating, maintaining and adding to the capacity of established city parks. The counterpart to this is Indy Parks' challenge to offer services and programs in the outlying areas of the county. There are noticeably fewer parks and built facilities in these areas, requiring Indy Parks' staff to employ creative strategies and partnerships to ensure delivery of park and recreation services to all of Marion County's residents.

The 2004 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan describes the present state and future vision for recreation opportunities in Marion County, Indiana. This plan also summarizes the progress and accomplishments of the previous comprehensive plan, dated 1999. 63% of the 1999 Plan's actions were completed and documented. 23% of the actions were at least begun, and will be completed in the 2004 Plan. The remaining 14% are either beyond the control of Indy Parks to complete or have been removed from the Plan.

The existing county-wide park and recreation facilities, natural and cultural features, demographics and universal accessibility conditions are identified to provide a starting point for future planning. Through a process of citizen participation and survey, Indy Parks has also identified and prioritized the recreational needs of the community, enabling them to identify trends, directions and opportunities for the park system. The changing demographics of the city and county necessitate timely reevaluations of the present and future recreational needs of the county.

## PLAN PURPOSE

This Plan documents the current status of Marion County Parks and Open Spaces. It also develops a blueprint for the creation and preservation of open spaces, recreation facilities and parks that:

- Reflects community values, goals and priorities.
- Identifies creative alternative methods to achieve these goals.
- Integrates easily into:
  - the formation of City policies,
  - the selection, implementation and coordination of City projects; and
  - the development of complementary and cooperative efforts by citizens and the City.
- Takes into account the role of recreation spaces, activities, programs, and facilities in the social and economic development of the city.
- Creates an immediate and progressive strategy to meet recreation needs for at least five years.
- Creates a unified, community-based vision for recreation activities, services and providers.
- Endeavors to create a stronger sense of community by developing partnerships between stakeholders to fulfill the recreation needs of the county.

## COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

A comprehensive plan is a valuable tool for Indy Parks to identify the direction for present and future recreation activities within Marion County. The plan will establish a framework for sensible development of park and recreation services. Having a comprehensive plan is not only beneficial for Park Board members and recreation planners, but it also gives the community a clear sense of Indy Parks' direction.

Indy Parks partners with its sister agency, the Department of Metropolitan Development in its writing of the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Park staff participate in both internal and public meetings throughout the drafting of the plan. The recommendations regarding treatment of greenways and land acquisition in this plan mirror those in the Land Use Plan.

A comprehensive plan for Indy Parks provides the foundation that will guide the Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation as well as citizen part-

# Introduction

ners. It recognizes the role of Indy Parks as a *partner* in fulfilling the recreation needs of the citizens of the county. As a part of delivering services, Indy Parks partners with a great many other provider organizations. These include faith-based groups, schools, private recreation centers, YMCAs, and other social service organizations. A complete listing is included in Appendix h.

## PLAN COMPONENTS

The components of Indy Parks' comprehensive plan will include:

- Public Participation
- Information gathering
  - park system organization
  - inventory of park facilities
  - inventory of natural resources
  - inventory of cultural resources
  - national recreation standards
  - future needs and trends
- Universal Access Evaluation
- Needs analysis
- Priorities & Action Schedule
- Evaluation of the Plan



## THE RECREATION EXPERIENCE

The primary focus of Indy Parks is to improve the quality of life by meeting the leisure needs of a diverse urban and suburban population. An understanding of "recreation" is needed because of the diverse nature of leisure and recreation.

Leisure time is that discretionary time that is not consumed by work, school, eating or sleeping. Indy Parks joins a wide array of leisure service providers such as local professional sports teams, zoos and museums, the Arts, libraries, church groups, school groups, neighborhood youth sports organizations and others, in an attempt to satisfy the publics' leisure needs.

*Leisure needs can be classified into two general categories: Passive and Active.*

*Passive* leisure activities include a drive through a park, a walk along a shoreline, watching children participate in a sport or activity, observing sports activities, visiting a historic city, or reading a book on a park bench. The pleasure is enhanced when the park is well maintained, safe from crime and accessible to the user. Tall green trees, running streams and other greenspace provide a natural and relaxing break from the built environment. It is a place where wildlife can be viewed and appreciated. *Passive* leisure activities in the outdoors are refreshing and enjoyable.

*Active* leisure activities include participating in a sports league, attending a day camp, going for a jog, playing basketball, mountain biking or learning to swim at a local pool. These are opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle, enhance fitness and socialize with others. Offering meaningful, high quality, *Active* leisure activities can be a deterrent to crime and extend the life of Marion County residents.

Public, private, and commercial providers of recreation services exist as part of the leisure and entertainment industry; the largest industry in the United States.



## BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The benefits of parks and recreation to society, the community, and local government are significant. While some view parks and recreation as trivial or unnecessary, research conducted since the 1930s proves otherwise. In fact, research has shown the small investments in park and recreation areas, programs, services and facilities are invaluable to a community. The impacts: economic, environmental, community, health and wellness, and others; help to create a healthy, vibrant place in which humans live.

The entire community benefits when investments in local parks and recreation are made. Parks and recreation also have a positive effect on corporate relocation, reduced crime, and community spirit. Some of the benefits of parks and recreation to the City of Indianapolis follow.

### Health & Fitness Benefits

Significant benefits are attributable to provision of local parks and recreation. Encouraging physical activity and quiet activities has significant positive impacts on individuals and the community. With minor publicly funded investment, local government officials can positively affect the health and fitness of the community in the following ways:

- Physical activity appears to relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety and improve mood.
- The physically fit person is less prone to injury and is less likely to experience depression.
- Positive and enjoyable recreation experiences can decrease stress and psychological tensions.
- Each additional mile walked or run by a sedentary person would give him or her an extra twenty-one (21) minutes of life.
- Outdoor adventure activities for people with limited physical ability gives participants feelings of success and improved feelings of confidence.
- Physically active older people typically benefit from lower blood pressure, increased muscle strength, joint flexibility and lower total cholesterol levels than do less active people.
- According to the Gallup Poll for American Health, Americans who exercised regularly were two and one-half (2 1/2) times more likely to report that they were happy than Americans who did not exercise at all.

- A water aerobics program two (2) times a week for sixteen (16) weeks significantly reduced diastolic blood pressure, body fat, and body weight in elder community residents. (*The Benefits of Parks and Recreation – a Catalogue, 1992*)

### Environmental Benefits

The preservation of the natural resources, most often found in local parks, results in environmental benefits to a community. Yet the far-reaching benefits to the environment of this small public investment are often underestimated. Preservation of an area's topography, wooded areas and historically important areas can often create the fabric of a high quality life for the community. Benefits of parks and recreation to a local community include the following environmental positives:

- Greenways limit and control air pollution.
- Green space is essential for recharging our aquifers.
- Greenways prevent pollution of surface and ground waters.
- Greenways maintain wildlife habitats and natural systems.
- Trees and vegetation help reduce noise and dust and absorb pollutants.
- One (1) shade tree may save the energy cost equivalent of four (4) air conditioners operating all day.
- According to a 1995 issue of *Money* magazine, Americans rank clean air and clean water number one (1) and number two (2) when choosing qualities for "the Best Place To Live."
- Open space enhances our quality of life including recreation, education, aesthetic and spiritual enrichment.



# Introduction

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## Economic Benefits

The economic benefits of parks, recreation and open space include those benefits associated with promotion of tourism, increased property values, attraction of business and industry, and reinvestment in property. Specifically research has found the following benefits to providing local parks and recreation:

- A 2003 study by IUPUI's Center for Urban Policy and the Environment found that homes in an Indianapolis greenway corridor benefit from \$3,731 in added value. Another model found that the value added to homes near the Monon Trail is \$13,059.
- In the neighborhood of Cox Arboretum, in Dayton, Ohio, the proximity of the park and arboretum accounted for an estimated five percent (5%) of the average residential selling price of homes.
- Increases in property values result in increased tax values. Park and open space investments often pay for themselves in a short period of time, due in part to increased property tax revenues from higher values of nearby property.
- A study of the impacts of greenbelts on neighborhood property values in Boulder, Colorado, revealed the aggregate property value for one (1) neighborhood was approximately \$5.4 million greater than if there had been no greenbelt. This resulted in \$500,000 additional potential property tax revenue annually.
- Quality of life is increasingly cited as a major factor in corporate location decisions. In 1996, Ernst & Young's Kenneth Leventhal noted recreation opportunities as the second most important quality of life location criteria. Labor factors, business costs and geographic factors were other considerations.

## Community Benefits

Parks and recreation impact the community. It has positive effects on crime reduction, brings people together, and creates a sense of identity and ownership in the community. It puts human beings in contact with each other, bringing out the need for social interaction and the benefits of mutual sharing. As communities plan for the future it has become clear that the quality of life is defined by many aspects of community life. Included in the aspects of quality of life are issues such as safety, education, affordability,

employment opportunities, and, of course, leisure offerings. Indy Parks adds a sense of community to Indianapolis by providing many of the recreation and leisure resources that are so highly valued by the community. Benefits in this area include:

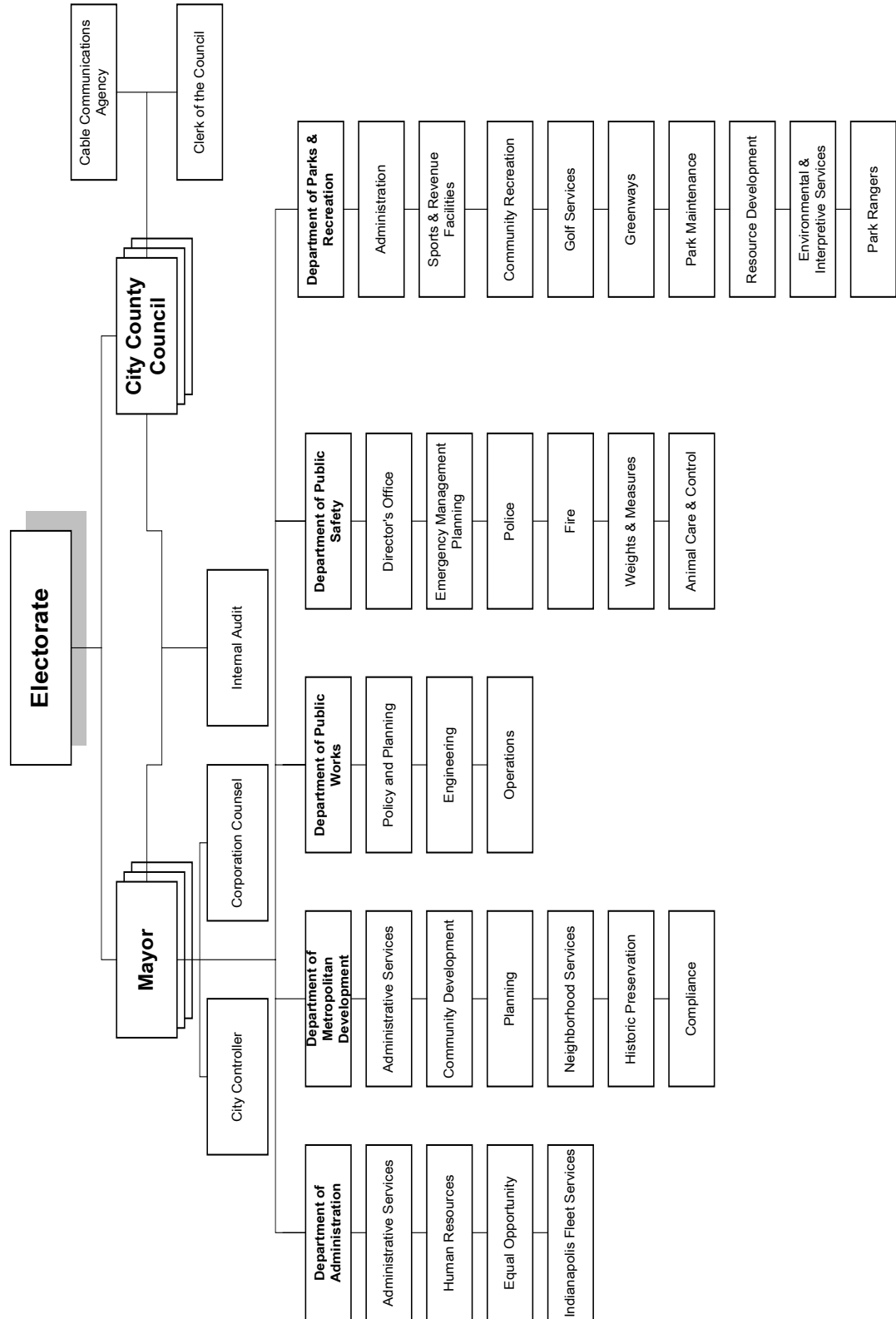
- Cincinnati, Ohio initiated the Late Evening Recreation Programs in 1993. During the initial thirteen week period, the number of juvenile criminal incidents dropped 24% from 491 to 373. Cost per person to provide this recreation service was \$4.56. (*Beyond Fun and Games*, 1994)
- Individuals learn new skills and develop new interests in parks and recreation.
- The opportunity to develop partnerships, combine resources, and meet social needs is provided.
- Civic pride in building a stronger community is created.
- Providing opportunities for families to connect and facilitating the ability to expand intergenerational programs.
- Youth show improved academic performance and adults and businesses realize increased productivity when a sense of community is created at local places and activities.
- Participants of all ages live healthier, longer lives, have reduced stress levels, and gain increased self-esteem and confidence when interacting in recreation activities.
- According to the February 1997 issue of *Urban Land*, in surveys conducted by American Lives, Inc. and Inter-Communication, Inc., the following stages in consumer preferences in community features and designs were noted. Twenty-one (21) out of thirty-nine (39) items listed related to park and recreation items.

It has become clear to society at large that the benefit of providing adequate park, recreation and open space areas is significant. With over a 100 year history in the American City, parks have become an integral part of our society and community expectations.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The development of the comprehensive park, recreation, and open space plan was divided into a three-part process: information gathering, draft plan development and final plan preparation.

**City of Indianapolis** **2004 Annual Budget** **Organization Chart**



# Introduction

By utilizing existing staff resources, and previous plans, Indy Parks inventoried and analyzed the park and recreation needs of the community.

The planning process also utilized previous Indy Parks planning efforts including the 1999 Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, the 2002 Indianapolis Greenways Plan, Capital Improvement Plans and 2004 Strategic Plan. These plans served as a foundation of already existing data and plans that needed review and 'winnowing,' not redevelopment.

## Information Gathering

In this phase, the project team actively sought information and background on issues and identified needs facing the Indianapolis Park and Recreation system. Included in this phase were data collection from the public via questionnaire surveys, meetings, and electronic communications. A review of existing plans, discussions with current staff as well as investigations of capital improvement plans were completed in order to define a planning area, identify overall park and recreation needs, and evaluate existing service quality and overall community opinion for Indy Parks. An early draft of the Plan was transmitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for technical review on January 15, 2004. This first draft of the plan was in reality an outline and status report of Indy Parks progress to date.

## Draft Plan Development

The second phase of the planning process was the further development of the draft comprehensive plan. This draft was reviewed for technical accuracy by staff and City officials prior to its release to the public. After modification, a public comment draft plan was released via Indy Parks' website and recreation centers and to public officials for review. Dates and times for subsequent public meetings were coordinated with release of the draft comprehensive park, recreation and open space plan.

## Final Plan Preparation

Briefings to various city Boards and officials, and finally, the adoption of the Plan the Indianapolis Parks and Recreation Board were completed for this final phase of comprehensive plan development. Subse-

quently, the adopted draft was transmitted to INDNR for their approval, and then printed. A final level of approval was obtained from the Metropolitan Development Commission, to attach the plan as an appendix to the County's Land Use Plan.

## CURRENT DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION ORGANIZATION

Today, the Department of Parks and Recreation oversees recreational facilities and provides leisure time activities throughout Marion County, Indiana. The Department enforces all city ordinances and state laws pertaining to parks and recreational facilities. It has the power to levy general property taxes to acquire, operate and maintain park and recreation facilities, and it also has the power to issue general obligation bonds for the same purposes. Its budget is reviewed and approved by the Mayor and the City-County Council.

A five-member board, administered by a director, oversees department policies, reviews its annual budget, and approves all contracts. The Park Board consists of the Director of the Department, who is appointed by the Mayor, two members appointed by the Mayor, and two members appointed by the City-County Council. The four members serve a renewable one-year term. The Director of the Department serves as the chair of the Board of Parks and Recreation.

As of March, 2004 the Board members and their term expirations are:

Joseph L.B. Wynn, Chair, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Mr. Richard J. Cockrum	12-31-04
Dr. Jacqueline S. Greenwood	12-31-04
Ms. Diana Wilson Hall	12-31-04
Mr. William H. Stinson	12-31-04

The board may be contacted at:  
200 E. Washington #2301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 327-7050

(addresses/phone numbers are available upon request)

## Department of Parks and Recreation Budget

The Department of Parks and Recreation budget has grown gradually over the past 5 years, however, grant monies contributed to the department's success in revitalizing neighborhood parks, extending greenways trails, and offering programs to the community. Detailed budget figures are included in the Identified Needs section. Additional land parcels were received through land donations and funded acquisitions. The parks system received other parcels for conversion to parks or as leverage for the acquisition of more land elsewhere for larger-size parks. Based on annual park user surveys and facility records, in 1998, the park system served 1,178,726 with programming, and witnessed general park attendance at 1,618,622. Greenways usage for the same period was 1,200,000. In 2003, the park system provided program services to 879,530 citizens; had a general park attendance of 4,249,309, and Greenways use was at 2,065,625. The system's capacity met a significant service demand and will continue to be challenged as more opportunities for relaxation, fitness, and recreation occur in relation to disposable time available.

The infusion of tax and grant dollars to the parks system enabled the Department to better use existing capacity and add capacity. The momentum gained during the recent period will, of course, need to be maintained in future periods to accomplish extensive renovation of aging facilities and continue a high rate of programming. Additionally, as community development continues, a greater need may become evident for more facilities tailored to local needs. The parks system will pursue its success in acquiring grants or corporate partners for these types of needs.



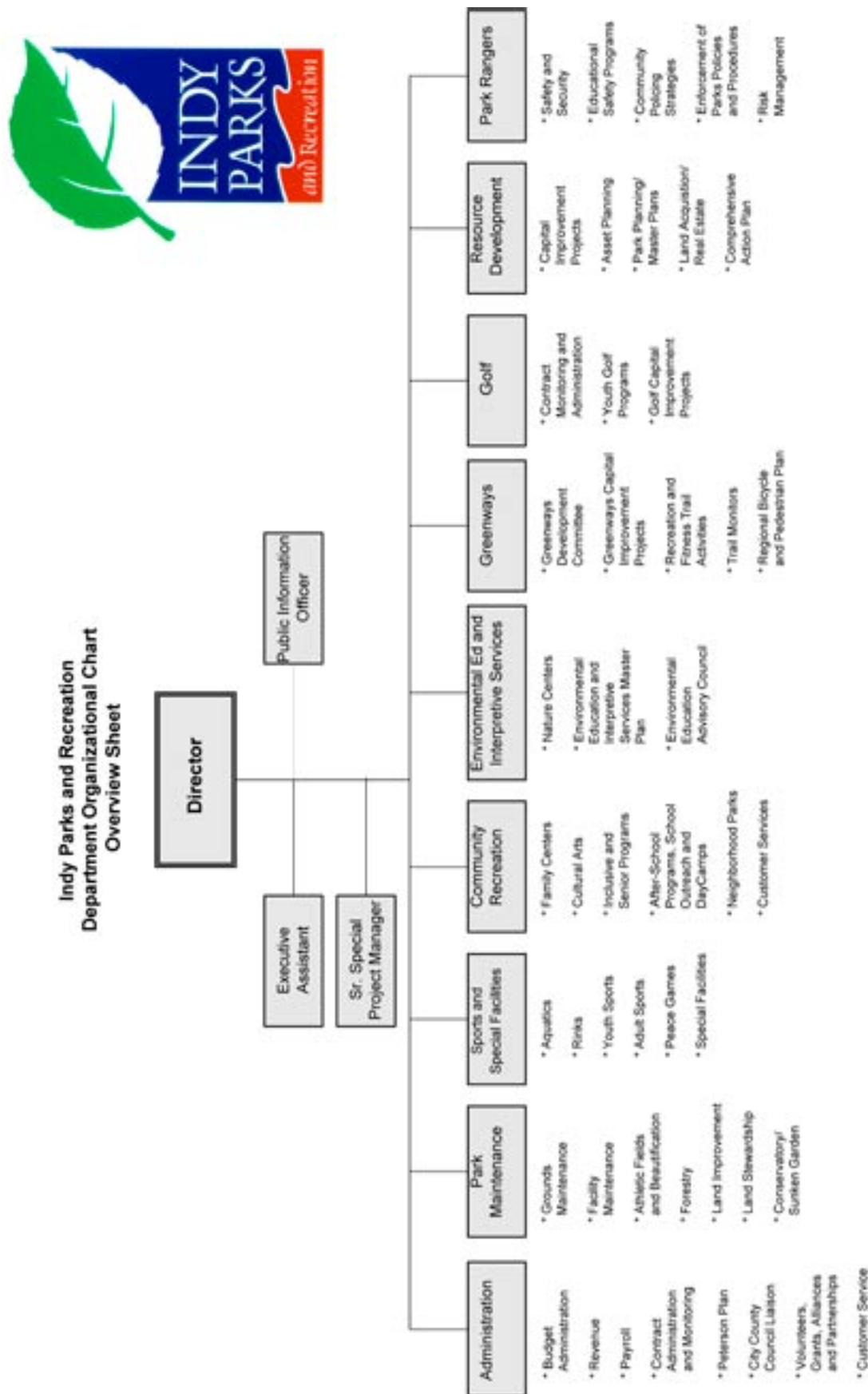
## Park Board Goals

The goals of the Parks Board, as described in Section 241-204 of the establishing ordinance are as follows:

- (1) To review all budgets prepared by the department and recommend to the city-county council any revisions the board feels desirable;
- (2) To hold any hearings to be held following public notice and make findings and determinations required by applicable law;
- (3) To approve the award and amendment of contracts let by the department for the purchase or lease of capital equipment or other property where the contract is required to be bid under IC 5-22;
- (4) To approve the award and amendment of public construction contracts let by the department which are required to be bid under IC 36-1-12;
- (5) To approve the acquisition of and leases for real estate by the department;
- (6) To approve the employment of persons engaged by the department by contract to render professional or consulting services;
- (7) To establish a cumulative building and sinking fund pursuant to IC 36-10-4-36;
- (8) To approve the disposal of property by the department as specified in IC 36-1-11, excluding leases of real property, pursuant to IC 36-1-11, for the siting of cellular, digital personal communications systems, or other wireless communications systems towers and related equipment; and
- (9) In addition, the board shall have the powers granted to the Board of Parks and Recreation of a consolidated city by IC 36-10-4, by ordinance or by the mayor.



# Introduction



## Department Organization

The nine divisions of the Department of Parks and Recreation are briefly described below.

### ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

Administration provides departmental level leadership, management, and oversight of the business operating elements. The Administration Division includes a variety of functions essential to the organization including finance, marketing and public relations, public policy, grants, alliances and partnerships, and a variety of other special projects. This division facilitates and coordinates the implementation of cross-divisional activities.

### COMMUNITY RECREATION DIVISION

The Community Recreation Division provides recreational services and opportunities to Marion County residents. Community Recreation's core areas include community centers, neighborhood parks, arts services, day camps, and after-school, therapeutic, and senior programs.

### SPORTS AND SPECIAL REVENUE FACILITIES DIVISION

This division provides both sports programs and special facilities combined with educational opportunities for volunteers, coaches and staff. Some of the facilities include indoor and outdoor aquatic centers, sports courts and fields, ice rinks, velodrome, skate park, and BMX track.

### GOLF DIVISION

The Golf Division provides golf opportunities for people of all ages and physical ability throughout the Indianapolis community. This division manages municipal courses as well as plans and oversees capital improvements at each course. It manages course operating contracts, service contracts, and course management contracts.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND INTERPRETIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Environmental and Interpretive Services Division provides environmental education and interpretive programs to the community through nature centers and the Hub Naturalist program.

### PARK MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Park Maintenance Division maintains Indy Parks' facilities and parks. Operating elements include beautification, forestry (includes city's street trees), grounds and facility maintenance, land improvement, natural resources, and land stewardship.

### PARK RANGERS DIVISION

The Park Rangers Division implements education safety programs, develops community policing strategies, and is responsible for enforcement of city ordinances, parks policies and procedures.

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Resource Development steers the direction of the Department through resource planning, capital asset development and sustainable strategic tactics. In addition to the planning tasks, this division is also responsible for land acquisition and real estate management.

### GREENWAYS DIVISION

The Greenways Division manages, improves and maintains the 40.7 mile greenways system within Marion County to provide recreational and fitness opportunities; promote open space conservation; link neighborhoods together, with other parks and other community assets; and provide environmental education for the public concerning the greenways system.



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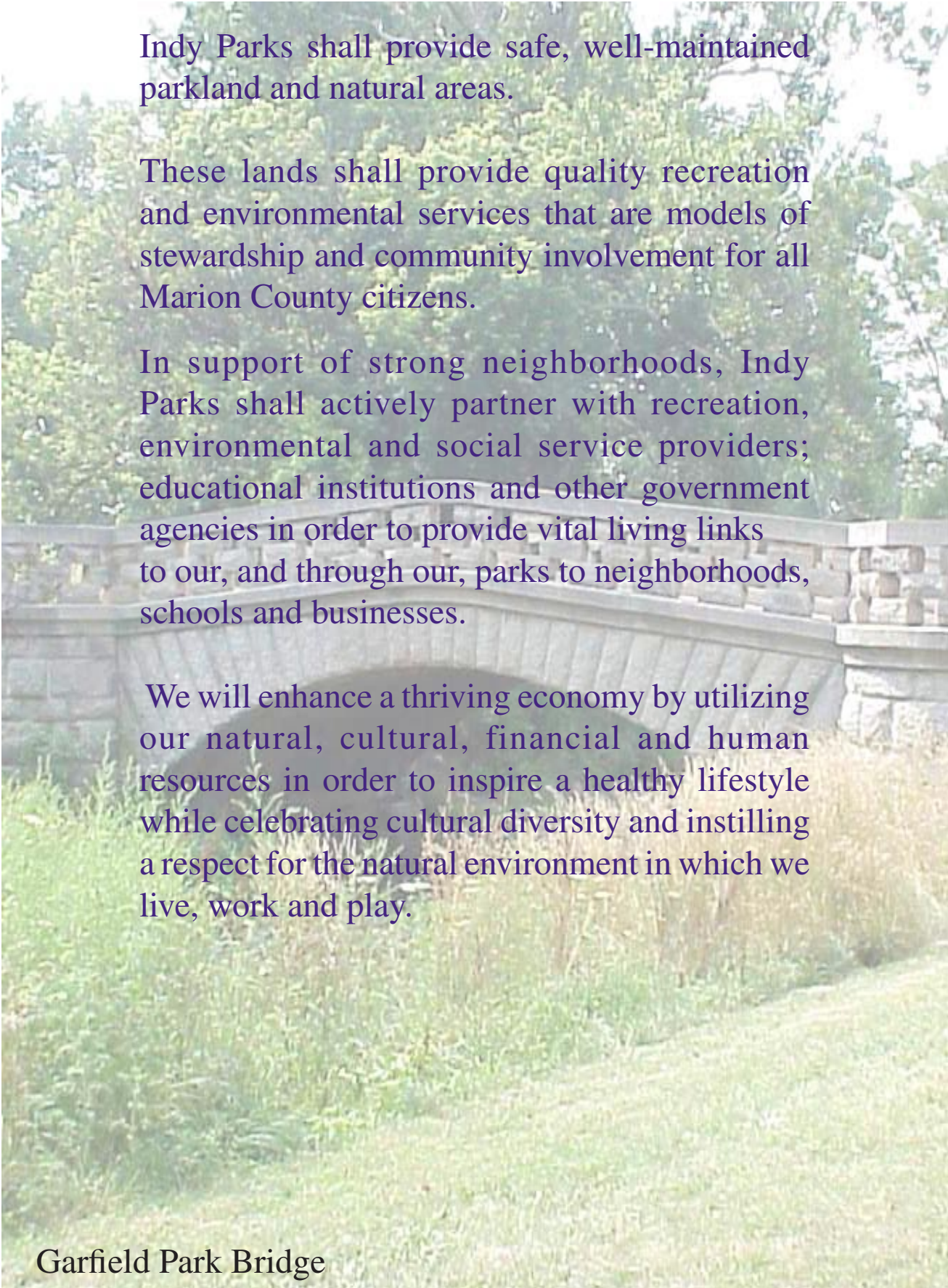
## Department Goals

The goals of the department are drawn from the 2004-2007 Indy Parks Strategic Plan and are described in further detail in the Historic Plan Review section of this document.

1. Enhance Quality of Life for Indianapolis' Seniors
2. Lead Indianapolis to Become a Healthier City
3. Protect the Assets of Indianapolis' Parks
4. Promote Diversity and Race Relations
5. Strengthen and Expand the Mission of the Mayor's Commission on Latino Affairs.
6. Strengthen Indianapolis as a World Class Cultural Community.







Indy Parks shall provide safe, well-maintained parkland and natural areas.

These lands shall provide quality recreation and environmental services that are models of stewardship and community involvement for all Marion County citizens.

In support of strong neighborhoods, Indy Parks shall actively partner with recreation, environmental and social service providers; educational institutions and other government agencies in order to provide vital living links to our, and through our, parks to neighborhoods, schools and businesses.

We will enhance a thriving economy by utilizing our natural, cultural, financial and human resources in order to inspire a healthy lifestyle while celebrating cultural diversity and instilling a respect for the natural environment in which we live, work and play.

Garfield Park Bridge



# Indy Parks Mission

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Indy Parks shall provide clear leadership and well-defined direction for enhancing the quality of life for Indianapolis and Marion County residents by providing park and recreation resources and services that:

- Provide and/or facilitate quality recreation and leisure opportunities.
- Encourage and support natural and cultural resource stewardship and environmental education.
- Include safe, clean, well-maintained park facilities for the community's use and enjoyment.
- Promote and facilitate mutually beneficial county-wide partnerships.

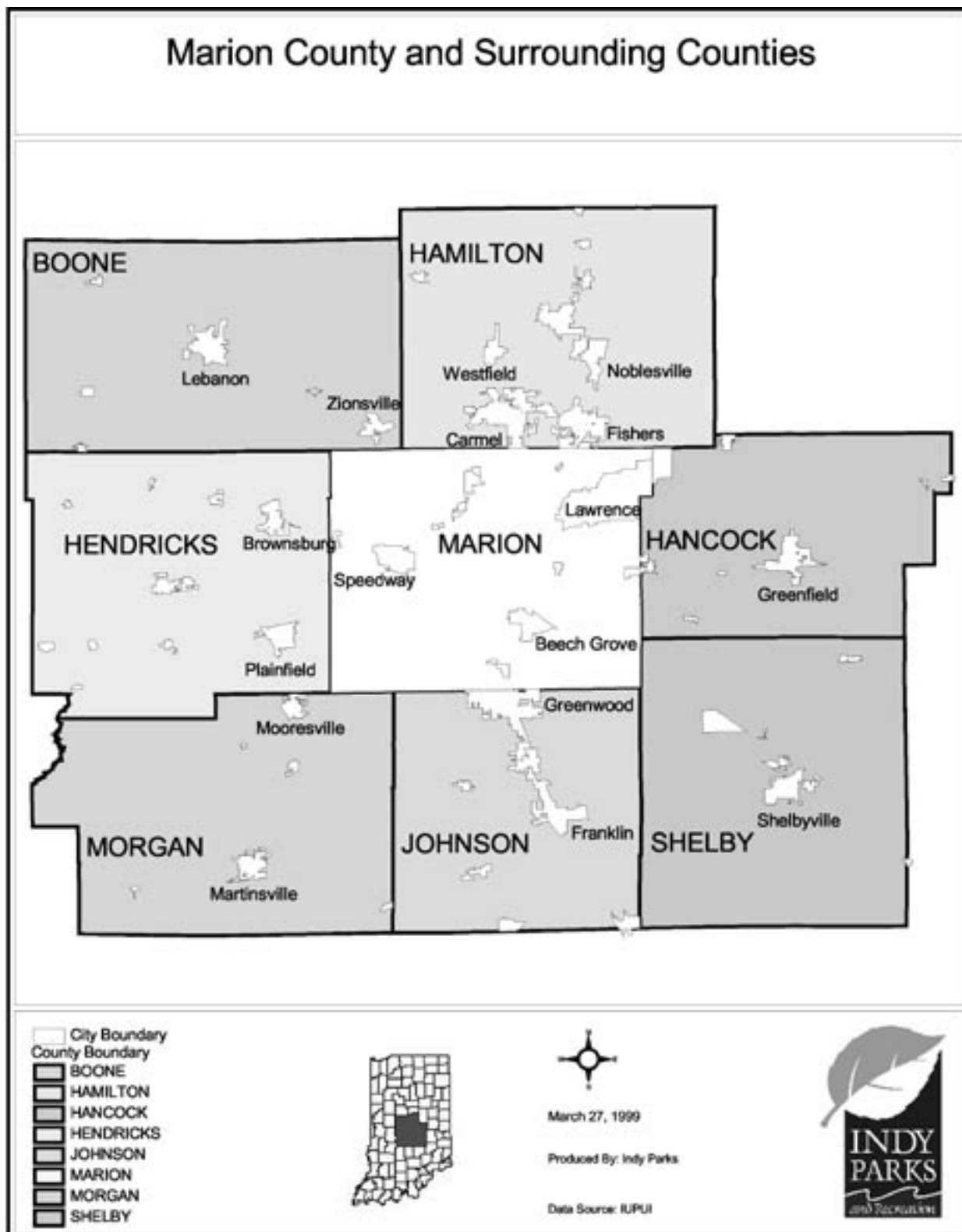
Northwestway Park





Thatcher Park

# Planning Area

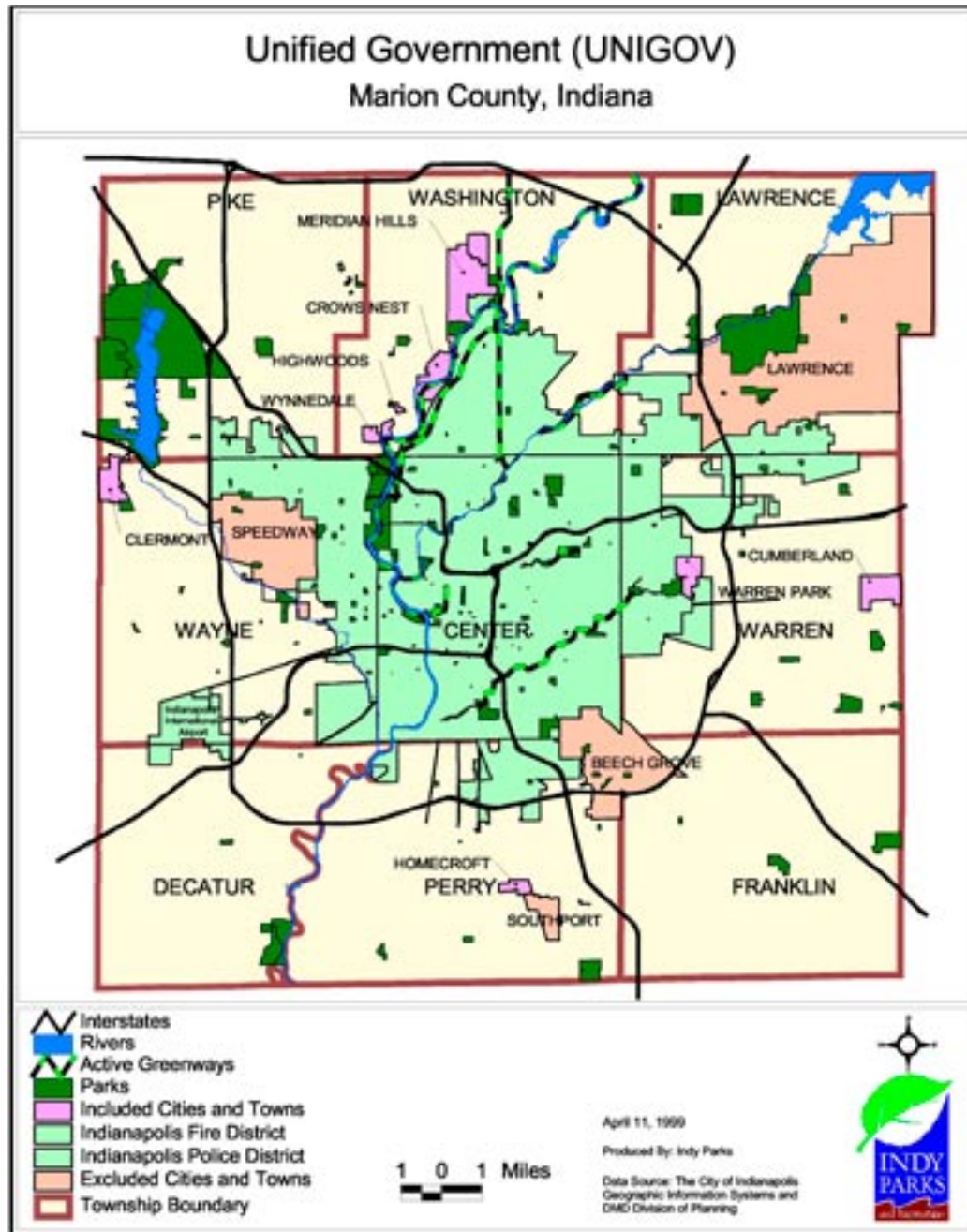


## DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Outdoor Recreation groups Marion County with seven other counties as Region 8. Those

counties are Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock, Morgan, Johnson and Shelby. The above map illustrates Marion County's location in relationship to its surrounding counties and the state.





## COUNTY POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

Although there was a consolidation of city and county government in the early 1970s, there are three excluded cities (Beech Grove, Lawrence and Southport) and one excluded town (Speedway) in the county. All four of these jurisdictions have their own police, fire, park and street departments as well as appointed and/or elected officials. There are fourteen additional areas designated as “included towns” that are separate taxing districts but rely on the City to provide the majority of services. The above map

illustrates the location of the excluded cities and the existing public parks in the county.

The political boundaries for this report are the county lines for Marion County, Indiana. Included as a reference are the excluded cities and towns of Lawrence, Speedway, Beech Grove, and Southport. This plan does not address the needs of the excluded cities.



# Planning Area







Holiday Park

# Public Participation

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation, through various methods, was an integral part of the planning process. Four (4) methods were determined to be critical to successful public involvement and identification of needs for Comprehensive Plan development.

Those methodologies were:

1. Indy Parks User Surveys
2. Random Public Surveys
3. Public Meetings
4. Existing Plan Summaries

The following text summarizes each of the methods and results.

## INDY PARKS USER AND RANDOM SURVEYS

In an effort to obtain detailed information from the public, two types of surveys were distributed. Park user addresses were obtained from information submitted by facility users and Friends groups. Surveys were also provided via e-mail to all city employees and distributed to individuals who attended the first series of public meetings. A total of 3,771 user surveys were distributed. With 429 returned to date, the response rate exceeds 8.8%. The surveys completed and returned from these groups provided the Parks Users Survey results. The results needed for the random-sample were obtained from 2,875 surveys sent to random residential addresses, combined with 6 distributed by Township Administrators. With 146 returned to date, the response rate exceeds 4.9%. For the survey itself please refer to Appendix g. For a full tabulation of survey results please refer to Appendix f.

### User Group Survey Results

The results we received from our user group surveys were generally very positive about the way Indy Parks is executing its mission. 79% of respondents described the number of parks in our system as 'good' or 'excellent,' while 83% thought that parks were conveniently located. 78% felt that Indy Parks was doing a good job of protecting our natural resource areas.

77% reported using parks facilities 12 or more times a year with 20% reporting they use them daily, and

49% reporting weekly use. This is very encouraging given that Indy Parks has placed an emphasis on providing facilities for everyone. Tempering this success is the fact that 52% reported that there is not a park within a five to ten minute walk, and 69% say that they get to parks by automobile. 81% say that they would travel over a mile to participate in specific programs. 57% say that they are not using parks as often as they would like.

77% say that more Greenway trails are 'very important,' and 49% say more internal park trails are 'very important.' When asked what facilities people would like to see more of, 30% of all respondents wrote in 'More Trails.' Clearly there is a great deal of work to do in connecting our residents to parks near their homes.

Regarding specific facilities, survey recipients were asked to rate Aquatic and Family Centers, and Golf Courses. These facilities were rated on topics ranging from quality of the facility and maintenance, to hours of operation, professionalism of staff, and ease of fee collection. A clear majority of respondents rated these facilities 'very good' to 'excellent.' Very few individuals rated any elements as 'poor' (between 1% and 6%). 43% of all respondents found our aquatic facilities to be better than they expected them to be. The most popular activities were open swim, followed closely by waterslides and spray pools. 57% found family centers were better than they expected, but 43% said that they 'didn't have enough time' as the reason they didn't use them more often. Another 57% found golf courses to be better than they had expected, and 48% would be willing to pay higher greens fees if it meant improved course conditions.

Despite occasional concerns about crime in municipal parks, 88% of respondents feel safe at Indy Parks' facilities. Many of those that didn't feel Indy Parks are safe cited specific incidents they are aware of, while 29% said a greater law enforcement presence would alleviate the problems. A full 94% of respondents declared an opposition to the conversion of parkland for any commercial, industrial, or non-recreation governmental use.

Respondents to the survey were divided closely between Male (53%) and Female (47%). Pike (29%), Wayne (22%) and Washington Township (22%) residents returned the greatest number of surveys.



# Public Participation

Franklin (2%), Center (8%), Decatur (4%), Perry (4%), Lawrence (5%) and Warren Townships (4%) had lower response rates.

## Random Public Survey Results

The majority of respondents to the random survey indicated that they were happy with Indy Parks' performance. Results were for the most part very similar to the results from the User Survey. The most significant differences occurred up in the rating of specific facilities such as Aquatics and Family Centers, and Golf Courses. The responses from the random surveys tended to give a slightly lower approval of these specific facilities.

As in the User Survey, these three specific facility types were asked to be rated on topics ranging from quality of the facility and maintenance, to hours of operation, professionalism of staff, and ease of fee

collection. Across the board, respondents tended to give more 'good' or 'very good' than the 'very good' or 'excellent' results found in the User Survey. The Random Surveys also saw a slightly higher percentage of 'poor' ratings. Overall, however, fewer respondents actually filled out these specific facilities sections than did in the User Survey. In all cases, however, of those who did fill them out, a majority of respondents still found the facilities to be at least 'Good.' Respectively, 46% in Aquatics, 55% in Family Centers, and 59% at Golf Courses indicated that these facilities provided what was expected of them. The most popular activities at the Aquatic Centers were open swimming (42%) and water slides (25%). When asked what factors limit participation in programs at family centers, 'not enough time' and 'didn't know about them' tied at 42% each. 41% of Golf Course respondents said that they use an Indy Parks course, even when another course is closer to their home. When asked why, 36% said it was to

When asked what <b>outdoor</b> activities their household had participated in over the past 12 months, respondents indicated Often & Sometimes	
77%	Walking or hiking
49%	Bicycling or roller-blading
45%	Picnicking
42%	Take a dog for a walk
39%	Special event
37%	Nature Study, bird-watching
37%	Playground equipment
27%	Outdoor theatrical or musical
26%	Pool or aquatic center
26%	Golf
23%	Fishing
23%	Team sports
23%	Canoeing/Rowing
22%	Sledding
20%	Motor-boating, sailing
18%	Frisbee
17%	Mountain biking
14%	Outdoor movie in the park
13%	Outdoor spray area
9%	Tennis
9%	Ice-skating or play hockey
7%	Horseback riding
4%	Horseshoes

When asked what <b>indoor</b> activities their household had participated in over the past 12 months, respondents indicated Often & Sometimes	
29%	Fitness activities
27%	Reading area or library
13%	Musical classes
13%	Team sport instructional
13%	Adult educational programs
12%	Visual arts classes, exhibits
12%	Computer lab area
11%	Arts and craft programs
10%	Rental of facility space
9%	Youth development
8%	Drop-in basketball
7%	Dance classes
7%	Drama/theatrical classes
6%	Day camp
5%	After school programs
5%	Game room
5%	Gymnastics or tumbling
4%	Drop-in volleyball
4%	Martial art classes
2%	Adaptive sports
1%	Fencing
1%	Boxing

# Public Participation

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‘meet a friend’ for a round, while ‘variety of play’ and ‘better price’ each scored 27%. Of respondents, 44% indicated that they would be willing to pay more if it meant improved playing conditions.

Regarding number and location of our parks, 73% felt the number of parks was good or excellent, while 77% felt that parks were conveniently located. 55% reported a park within a five to 10 minute walk from their home, however, 80% of respondents would travel over a mile to participate in a specific program or event. 79% felt that Park and Recreation facilities were accessible.

Trail systems also rated high on most respondents’ list. 49% thought that trails inside parks were ‘very important’, while 36% thought that they were ‘somewhat important’. An overwhelming 77% felt that Greenways trails were ‘very important’ and 20% thought that they were ‘somewhat important’. More trails were also noted prominently when respondents were asked what other recreation of park facilities that they would like to see developed.

Maintenance turned out to be the area most respondents thought needed work, with 66% feeling that outdoor facility maintenance was good or excellent and 63% feeling the same way about the maintenance of indoor facilities. 86% of respondents felt that Indy Parks are safe, while those who didn’t either felt that more Ranger presence would alleviate the situation, or cited a specific incident. An overwhelming 97% oppose the idea of parkland being used for commercial, industrial, or non-recreation government usage.

The survey respondents also revealed that 60% utilize the parks at least once a month, with 12% overall reporting daily use, and 41% reporting weekly use. 68% felt that Indy Parks does a good job of protecting natural areas.

Most respondents to the survey were female (59%). The most were returned from Center Township (27%) while the least came from Pike Township (2%). Decatur (4%), Franklin (4%), Lawrence (6%), Warren (13%), Wayne (13%), Perry (14%) and Washington (17%) Townships made up the rest.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

In addition to the surveys conducted for public comment, Indy Parks provided ten (10) different opportunities for public meetings.

The first set of public meetings was held between January 26 through February 2, 2004. These meetings were identical and held in five areas of Marion County; Center, Decatur, Franklin, Lawrence and Pike Townships. Total attendance for these 5 meetings was 131. These meetings were advertised through local newspapers, Indy Parks website and by 2,800 direct mailers to neighborhood organizations and residents.

A second set of meetings was held between March 15 and March 23, 2004. Again, these meetings were held in five areas of Marion County; Center, Decatur, Franklin, Lawrence and Pike Townships.

## Results-Public Meetings

### *January/February Meetings*

The first set of public meetings held were intended as information gathering meetings. Parks staff opened with 30-35 minutes of background information. This included explanation of a Comprehensive Plan, and overviews of Indy Parks, Indianapolis demographics and Indy Parks 1999 Comprehensive Plan. The next 60-90 minutes was spent gathering input from the attendees. This came in the form of spoken comments and discussion, written comments and completed surveys. A summary of the input from each meeting follows. Notes from the meeting in their entirety are included in Appendix e.

### *January 26th, Lawrence North High School*

Attendance for this meeting totaled 13 due to icy weather conditions. Interest was expressed in continuing Indy Parks efforts in the areas of greenways development, establishing nature parks and trails within parks, and aggressive land acquisition before Marion County reaches buildout. New initiatives suggested included a public water skiing facility, additional mountain biking trails, closing parks to vehicle traffic periodically and encouraging historic restoration of Parks facilities. Indy Parks was encouraged to continue or add to activities such as the Park Rangers,

cultural education programs, interpretive signage and environmental education.

January 28th, Franklin Township Civic League

Attendance for this meeting totaled 19 on a very cold evening. Interest was expressed in continuing Indy Parks efforts in the areas of land acquisition, canine companion zones (especially on Indianapolis' east side), and greenway development (especially on Indianapolis' south side). New initiatives suggested included a water skiing facility, a nature center and aquatic center in the southeast part of the county, including amenities for adults, opening trail usage at night, and general support of Indianapolis' quality of life.

In the area of programming, Indy Parks was encouraged to maintain Jazz Fest, Movies in the Park, Concerts in the Park and cultural education. Indy Parks Park Rangers were commended for their efforts and a call was made for the division to be expanded.

January 29th, Indianapolis Zoo

Attendance for this meeting totaled 20. Interest was expressed in continuing Indy Parks efforts to provide access to the White River, as well as better ADA access in general. Suggestions were made for more bikelanes on Indianapolis' streets, more restrooms in parks and more partnerships with public schools. New initiatives suggested included more parks in Perry Township, study of natural areas and their plant communities, and boat access on the Indianapolis Water Canal. Indy Parks was encouraged to expand health and fitness programs, water aerobics for kids, and general programming in new Recreation Centers.

February 2nd, Decatur Middle School

Attendance for this meeting totaled more than 45. Suggestions were made to construct new facilities in the Decatur Township area including a Family Recreation Center, Aquatic Center, southside Greenways and better river access. Support was expressed for continued land acquisition in rapidly developing areas of Marion County. Comments were also made calling for improvements to playground equipment in Southwestway Park. An aquatics program was requested in Decatur Township as well as a multi-use sports complex.

February 3rd, Pike High School

Attendance for this meeting totaled 34. Indy Parks was encouraged to continue its efforts in Land Acquisition, partnering with IUPUI, using Park Rangers to combat crime and promoting equestrian trails in Southwestway Park. New initiatives suggested were an equestrian program in the Department, an outdoor skating rink, and expansion of fitness programs and more multi-lingual facilities and programs. Indy Parks was also encouraged to use public access television to include more residents in the public process.

## *March Meetings*

In March of 2004, five public forums were conducted to present a summary of the draft plan. The same content was presented at all five meetings, held in various areas of Marion County. A brief summary of each meeting follows. Notification was sent to the same list as for the first round meetings, with the addition of all attendees from these earlier meetings. Attendance at this round of meetings exceeded 70 persons. All meetings were started at 7:00pm. Indy Parks' staff presented to the attendees the results of the surveys as well as the first round of meetings. A summary of the data obtained from comparison cities, benchmark standards and an analysis of service areas were presented. Staff concluded with a summary of the Action Plan. The floor was then opened for public comment and discussion.

Copies of the draft Plan were also placed in eight locations throughout Marion County during this two-week public review period. These locations were Indy Parks' administrative offices, Garfield Park, Holiday Park, Krannert Park, Riverside Park, Southeastway Park and Washington Park. The entire document was available for download and comments on Indy Parks' website. Public Access television recorded the Center Township meeting and broadcast it several times during the two-week public review period.

March 15, Lawrence North High School

Attendance for this meeting totaled 20. Questions were asked about the plan's implementation schedule and how actions would be funded. These details are included in the action plan. Staff was encouraged to give consideration to park acquisition in underserved, developed areas, such as the Allisonville area. Clari-

# Public Participation

fication was requested on the organizational structure for the Parks Board. Several users groups requested that Indy Parks consider including discussion boards and Frequently asked questions areas on its website related to their areas of interest.

## March 17, Indianapolis Zoo

Attendance for this meeting on St. Patrick's Day totaled only 7. Questions were raised about the Capital Improvement Plan section. It was suggested that the plan should include funds specifically for acquisition. The Department's accountability to its constituents was discussed, as well as Department Accreditation, the Parks Board and Park Advisory Groups as mechanisms for this accountability. The service area maps in the plan were discussed. The debate centered on the appropriate diameter for a park's service area.

## March 18, Franklin Township Civic League

Attendance for this meeting totaled 12. Parks staff were strongly encouraged to press for acquisition of parkland adjacent to Southeastway Park, and in other developing areas of the township. Parks was encouraged to pursue developers to include parks and greenway connections in their projects. Some concern was raised about Indy Parks using eminent domain to acquire lands for greenways, and it was shared that this is an extremely rare occurrence.

## March 22, Pike High School

Attendance at this meeting exceeded 13. A request was made to include the source of Indy Parks budget funds in the plan. Parks staff were encouraged to use discretion before accepting land from developers, to assure that it is suitable for parkland. Planning greenway connections to adjacent communities was stressed, such as Zionsville, Brownsburg and Cumberland. The parks survey results and response rate were a topic of discussion as well.

## March 23, Decatur Middle School

Attendance for this meeting exceeded 18 persons. The topic of impact fees was discussed as a tool for acquiring and developing parks. Concern was expressed about special user groups gaining sole use of public lands for their activities, to the detriment of other potential users. Park facilities were discussed in terms of their ability to generate enough revenue to cover expenses, and the fact that this is very rare in the public sector.





## EXISTING PLAN SUMMARIES

The City of Indianapolis and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources already have in place a system for public participation and review. As a result of the ongoing process of “city-planning,” the Department of Metropolitan Development, Indy Parks, and the State of Indiana have completed references documenting the needs of the public within the county. Recent documents that were reviewed included the 2004-2007 Strategic Park Plan, the 2002 Indianapolis Greenways Plan, and all previous Comprehensive Park Plans. The staff also reviewed existing plans from the Department of Metropolitan Development. Those included the Marion County Comprehensive Land-Use Plan, each of eight township Comprehensive Plans, the Indianapolis Regional Center Plan and all existing Neighborhood Plans. The planners also reviewed the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan—2000-2004 to determine Marion County’s status compared to other counties and regions in the state. INDNR is in the process of updating this plan at this time. A list of all documents reviewed is included in the Bibliography.

## Results-Existing Plan Summaries

The following section identifies actions and needs that have already been identified in other public planning documents.

### Comprehensive Park Plans

The Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation has a long, and visionary history of park planning. Historic plans that were located by the park planners, included original linen drawings by J. Clyde Power, dating to the early 1900s. Those drawings are located in the Architectural Archives at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana. Historic documents that were reviewed dated from 1928.

The actions identified in the historic comprehensive plans, repeated, in so many words, the same actions.

They are:

- Provide open-space, recreational facilities, and programs which serve the citizens and improve the environment.
- Provide even distribution of leisure services so

the public has safe, adequate access to recreation and leisure services.

- Establish a base level of maintenance service per park type, additional service should be prioritized.
- Secure community involvement, participation and financial support for programs and other leisure public services.
- Develop creative ways to better serve youth, young adults, and senior citizens.
- Promote a leadership style which will encourage staff to be creative and show new initiatives toward developing programs, services, etc.. that directly benefit the public.
- Develop a minimum standard to guide future development of recreation facilities.
- Devote efforts to making acreage available for recreation uses in new residential developments.
- Increase the number of qualified professional staff to carry out the Recreation Division programs.
- Increase promotion and marketing activities to increase the delivery of programs to the public and the public’s knowledge of the division.
- Emphasize cultural activities that will involve more of the public.
- Use school facilities for neighborhood recreational services in partnership with Indy Parks.
- Emphasize the acquisition of areas of high natural resources.
- Develop park sites for areas currently or potentially under supplied with recreation facilities.
- Provide a legal framework for the provision of leisure services, including procedures requiring dedication of adequate leisure areas in newly developed areas; preservation of flood plains, marshlands, wetlands; other ecologically significant areas; and historic and cultural sites.

# Public Participation

## 2004-2007 Strategic Plan

In 2003, Indy Parks prepared a Strategic Plan to better define its Mission and Vision for the coming years. This plans 6 strategic initiatives are outlined below. These initiatives incorporate input from the Department's Mission and Vision Statements, Mayor Peterson's Initiatives and staff's professional expertise.

### Enhance Quality of Life for Indianapolis' Seniors

- Recognize the value of older residents. Embrace and incorporate the contributions of mature residents as a resource for volunteer and work opportunities.
- Develop land use planning, policy and infrastructure development that will reflect the future needs of our mature population.
- Maintain cultural activities that will reflect the strong support and involvement of mature residents in the arts.

### Lead Indianapolis to Become a Healthier City

- Expand fitness programs and activities to meet the needs of neighborhoods, schools, children, families, persons with disabilities and seniors.
- Appoint fitness coordinator to develop Indy in Motion partnerships and programs in the parks. This individual will work directly with mayor's office, serving as a clearing house of information and education about fitness activities in the city.
- Expand the city's greenways system and increase the number and length of bike paths.
- Create new opportunities and programs for fitness on the greenways.
- Create fitness website that details healthy activities for families, children, seniors and people with disabilities.
- Create a mayoral challenge/commitment program.
- Create fitness guide that details all the free or low cost activities available in parks.
- Expand "A Walk in the Park" to promote walking programs to schools, churches, and neighborhood organizations. Indy Parks will work directly with key partners such as Marion County Health Department.
- Cultivate new, long-term relationships with local community health and fitness organizations and professional sports organizations to increase visibility of mayor's fitness message.

- Develop a marketing initiative to encourage and promote the mayor's fitness message to the community; work with mayor's office to help "brand" all city fitness efforts.
- Develop a comprehensive programming master plan.

### Protect the Assets of Our Indianapolis Parks

- Reclaim, restore and promote culturally and historically significant assets found on Indy Parks' land. Restore the Taggart Memorial at Riverside Park, the Garfield Arts Center and the Peace Memorial at Martin Luther King Park. Preserve and highlight the Indianapolis Historic Park and Boulevard System.
- Increase the city's parkland and open space inventory.
- Implement new strategies and further develop existing land acquisition strategies for parkland and open space.
- Aggressively pursue alternate funding sources through donor, grant, and partnership opportunities.
- Develop a comprehensive asset/preventative maintenance plan to assist in developing the annual capital improvement plan.
- Develop a departmental natural resources/conservation plan.
- Create a package of standards for environmental park interpretive signage.

### Promote Diversity and Race Relations

- Review current performance measures goals for minority- and women-owned businesses to make sure that these goals advance equal opportunity. Achieve minority business involvement at 10% and women-owned business involvement at 2%.
- Cultivate staff capability to meet the diversity of our urban community by improving staff race-relations development/training program and establishing an improvement plan.
- Increase partnerships and opportunities to expand services to minority communities, diverse families, and people with disabilities.

### Strengthen and Expand the Mission of the Mayor's Commission on Latino Affairs

- Engage the Latino community in the city parks and park programs.
- Establish the Indy Parks Latino Outreach Initiative, made possible by the Clowes Fund.

- Increase partnership opportunities in the Latino community.

## Strengthen Indianapolis as a World-Class Cultural Community

- Work with the Cultural Development Commission and local cultural and tourism partners to further four fundamental goals: stimulate increased cultural participation by residents; maximize the cultural experience for visitors; build a sustainable infrastructure to support cultural development; and strengthen Indianapolis and Central Indiana as a unique cultural destination to attract new tourists.
- Develop public arts in Indianapolis. Identify existing works of public art, prioritize locations for future artwork, support temporary public art exhibits and investigate potential funding sources for public art.
- Actively partner in the regional cultural tourism movement by facilitating art experiences.
- Define the department's role in the city-wide movement, as parks and greenways have been found as the #1 cultural tourism destination.
- Promote our parks system as the facilitator of cultural tourism.
- Raise awareness of the history of our parks system (e.g., George Kessler Plan, historical landmarks).

## Regional Center Plan-2020

The Regional Center Plan is updated every 10 years and consists of recommendations that are designed to enhance life on Indianapolis's Downtown area while acting as a guide for future growth and development.

Parks and Recreation issues were addressed in the Regional Center Plan process by the Placemaking Downtown Committee. This committee met monthly from December 2002 to June 2003. Four Priorities and Initiatives were identified and are listed below. In addition, four goals related to Parks and Open Space were formulated and are also included below.

The Placemaking Committee focused much of its time on considering issues where improvements need to be implemented. The underlying assumption is that Indianapolis has a strong historic base and a clearly identifiable center. The location of

Indianapolis regionally and the lack of other urban competitors places the Regional Center in the position of being accepted as the center of the state and city. The following themes represent initiatives which are important to Placemaking and embrace more than one objective.

## Priorities & Initiatives

- **Preserve and Enhance Existing Assets** The existing historic resources, neighborhoods, parks, universities, government centers, convention facilities and entertainment facilities provide a strong framework for planning. Preserving, maintaining and supporting what the Regional Center has is inherent in the Committee's deliberations.
- **Design** The quality of design is very important and urban design guidelines should be developed to guide development. A design center to provide information, educational opportunities, research, support and advocacy for quality should be established.
- **Cultural Trail** The accessibility and connection of Regional Center assets is important to wayfinding, sense of place and development. The proposed Cultural Trail will link cultural districts, greenways, neighborhoods and arts venues while serving to connect core retail to neighborhoods, neighborhoods to the University and be a strong destination in and of itself.
- **Environmental Responsibility** All development should be environmentally sensitive. Improving air quality, water quality and energy conservation are important to the future. Opportunities to use plant materials and passive energy strategies are also recommended.

## Goal 21 Linkages

Connect neighborhoods, institutions, cultural amenities, cultural districts and business districts to the Downtown core by improving wayfinding and developing mass transportation, greenways, pedestrian ways, bikeways and rest areas. Routes should be safe, accessible, aesthetically pleasing and promote a more sustainable environment.

## Goal 22 Parks and Open Space

Maintain and enhance parks, open space and waterways that provide for the needs of area residents, workers and visitors and positively contributes to the overall image of the city.

## Goal 23 Historic Preservation



# Public Participation

Protect, restore and preserve the historic built environment including art, parks, infrastructure, urban archaeology and the original “Mile Square Plan” of Alexander Ralston.

## Goal 24 Ecology and Sustainability

Develop projects that embody sustainability by conserving energy, protecting nonrenewable resources, improving air and water quality and protecting the natural environment.

### Marion County Comprehensive Land-Use Plans

The Comprehensive Land-Use Plan for Marion County, Indiana was adopted in 1991. Subsequent Township Plans were adopted between the years 1991 and 1993. In 2004, the Department of Metropolitan Development is nearing the end of its revision process of each on Marion County's eight outlying townships. Before embarking on this effort, a series of meetings was held to develop a Community Values Component, or guideline for the land use mapping sessions. This Community Values document had the participation of over 700 residents, as well as various steering and issues committees.

The following list is an excerpt from the list of community recommendations for the development of Marion County's Land Use Maps.

The following recommendations were intended to guide land use recommendations throughout the writing of the plan.

- Encourage property owners to preserve their land in its natural state for its beauty and to provide a habitat for wildlife.
- Assemble and preserve lands and corridors for regional scale parks, open space, recreation needs and natural areas.
- Promote the reuse of brownfields as open space and greenspace.
- Provide linkages for parks and recreation areas in the region using trails, greenways, pathways and bike routes. These linkages should serve both recreational needs and as transportation alternatives.
- Strongly discourage use of parkland for non-park purposes; any taking of parkland should be at market value, as a direct purchase, lease arrangement or trade for similar land in the vicinity.
- Promote use of the cluster option available in the Dwelling District Zoning Ordinance as a valuable tool for preservation of woodlands.
- Encourage brownfield redevelopment through the development and implementation of financial incentives to address barriers to redevelopment.
- Closely coordinate future land use planning with transportation systems plans. Preserve existing rail rights-of-way and identify those that should be reserved for future mass transit use. Preserve rights-of-way for future regional public transportation.
- Continue to redevelop blighted and deteriorating areas proactively and in partnerships among the City, local non-profit developers, neighborhood associations, community centers and for-profit developers.

The mapping standards listed below were used to guide the public and staff in the land use designation, to assure consistency throughout Marion County.

- Recommend land uses in wellfields that are less polluting uses such as parks, open space, residential, and office.
- Identify natural features that provide for clean water benefits, i.e. wetlands (natural and constructed), forested tracts, ravines, and feeder streams or headwater areas.
- Propose land uses that are likely to have the least impact on increasing flooding and are likely to be the least impacted by flooding within the floodplains.
- Depict native forest fragments, riparian corridors, stands of native trees, wooded wetlands and important urban and pioneer woodlands as Environmentally Sensitive Areas.
- Use a parks-to-population standard of 17.3 acres of parkland for every 1000 persons of actual or projected population.
- Provide a park within 1 mile of each residential development.
- Use the updated Indianapolis Greenways Plan as the basis for the Linear Park designations.
- Provide greenways links through jurisdictional borders.
- Develop stream valleys and transportation corridors for multiple use (utility, recreation) purposes.

The development methods section was intended to improve methods for putting together physical attributes of the City.

- Encourage development practices that protect existing natural features/assets, promote innovative land use designs and focus on sustainable natural systems.
- Develop programs to identify and work to conserve street trees and notable specimen trees.
- Encourage more interconnections of communities in the region with bicycle trails, pedestrian sidewalks and pathways.
- Provide sidewalk, multipurpose paths and other pedestrian mobility infrastructure to improve access to all public transportation.
- Retrofit existing neighborhoods with sidewalks or multipurpose paths where appropriate and wanted.
- Provide sidewalks or multi-purpose paths on arterial streets that currently do not have sidewalks as part of significant roadway projects (widening, full depth resurfacing).
- Increase development of multipurpose paths as part of roadway projects.
- Use utility rights-of-way for multi-modal paths.
- Foster public life throughout the city by incorporating a variety of open spaces and community gardens into neighborhoods. These areas can function as “public living rooms” for informal gathering and recreation.
- Capitalize on opportunities for promoting community identity through the design of street space. Preserving, or encouraging among other things: street furnishings that reflect the ethnic heritage or architectural character of the surrounding neighborhood; artworks and markers commemorating important events or individuals; details that can reinforce community identity and authenticity such as light standards, street name markers, stone curbing or cobblestone paving or types of street trees; space for landscaping projects, etc.

The supporting issues recommendations do not have an impact on the land use of Marion County, but do impact the quality of our lives, and were thus included in the plan.

- Develop a reliable funding mechanism for the acquisition of land for parks and greenways.

- Use parkways, greenways, open space areas and other community assets as economic development tools to attract new businesses and residents.
- Promote partnerships among cultural heritage agencies, City government, and community organizations to develop a program and marketing strategy to celebrate Indianapolis’s cultural diversity.
- Work in partnership with artists, arts organizations, ethnic, cultural, musical, community associations, and educational institutions to foster opportunities for life-long cultural exploration for all citizens.
- Encourage informal opportunities for learning about and enjoying arts and culture through performances and events in non-traditional settings and the integration of arts and culture into the everyday workings of public and private entities.
- Use public spaces for arts and cultural activities and events.
- Facilitate volunteer public arts projects, such as community murals, by identifying locations where art is desirable, can be accommodated safely, and will be enjoyed by many people.
- Involve youth in the design and implementation of public art projects.
- Include libraries, cultural institutions, parks and recreation and education providers in redevelopment planning.

The final list of recommendations from the plan addressed possible changes in ordinances or procedures to improve the work of the Department of Metropolitan Development.

- Amend the cluster option in the Dwelling District Zoning Ordinance to allow transfer of preserved open space to the Department of Parks and Recreation at the approval of the Department as it meets their mission.
- Amend the Zoning Ordinances to require preservation of existing dense vegetative cover or the planting of dense vegetative cover along stream and tributary banks for the purposes of erosion control, contaminant capture, water cooling (important for retaining oxygen levels) and habitat preservation.
- Develop a county-wide tree conservation ordinance for both public and private land that limits site clearing, and uses a tiered approach based on forest types.

# Public Participation

## 2002 Greenways Plan

The Greenways Plan, a subset to the Parks Comprehensive Plan, designated 16 corridors for management by Indy Parks. Some of these corridors contain paved greenway trails, some are planned for trails in the future, and others are designated for natural conservation. Many of the properties are owned by Indy Parks or the City of Indianapolis, while others are privately held. In the case of private properties, Indy Parks simply advocates and advises on issues of conservation. The 16 corridors are:

White River	Buck Creek
Mud Creek	White Lick Creek
Fall Creek	B & O Rail Corridor
Indian Creek	Eagle Creek
Pogues Run	Crooked Creek
Pleasant Run	Central Canal Towpath
Grassy Creek	Monon Rail Corridor
Little Buck Creek	Pennsy Corridor

Each corridor was subjected to public review and comment in public workshops and general support was found for the concept of developing these greenways in Indianapolis. A specific set of implementation actions was developed which included formation of a Greenways Commission, creation of a Greenways Division within Indy Parks, commitment to City financial support of greenways for development and maintenance, and a future plan for development of the greenway corridors.

The 2002 Greenways Plan has been used in this comprehensive planning process as a source of valuable information and actions appropriate for Indy Parks to consider. Specific actions are found in the Action Plan.

## Neighborhood Plan Summaries

The Department of Metropolitan Development, Division of Planning has, as part of its mission, the responsibility of developing neighborhood and community plans. These plans cover a broad range of land use, infrastructure and development issues. Parks are often a part of these plans. The following list is a compilation from a review of the many neighborhood plans. The issues below are themes repeated in many neighborhoods.

- Need for additional leisure activities.
- Need general improvements at local park.
- Need more parks.
- Need linkages between public open spaces
- Need better supervision, security.
- Need better maintenance in parks.
- Need Recreation Center.

## State-wide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan-2000-2004 (SCORP)

In preparation for compiling its SCORP document, the state conducted a Recreation Issues Survey. This survey was sent to a random sampling of Indiana's residents, environmental groups and state and local agency personnel. The top five issues identified are listed below.

1. A source of long term, consistent funding for outdoor recreation should be provided at the state and local level.
2. The state's current river recreation areas need to be protected.
3. Priority should be given to acquiring lands in urban areas for outdoor recreation.
4. New or additional partnerships should be developed between the private sector and local, state and federal agencies to develop and maintain outdoor recreation opportunities.
5. Economic impact data needs to be used in outdoor recreation planning.





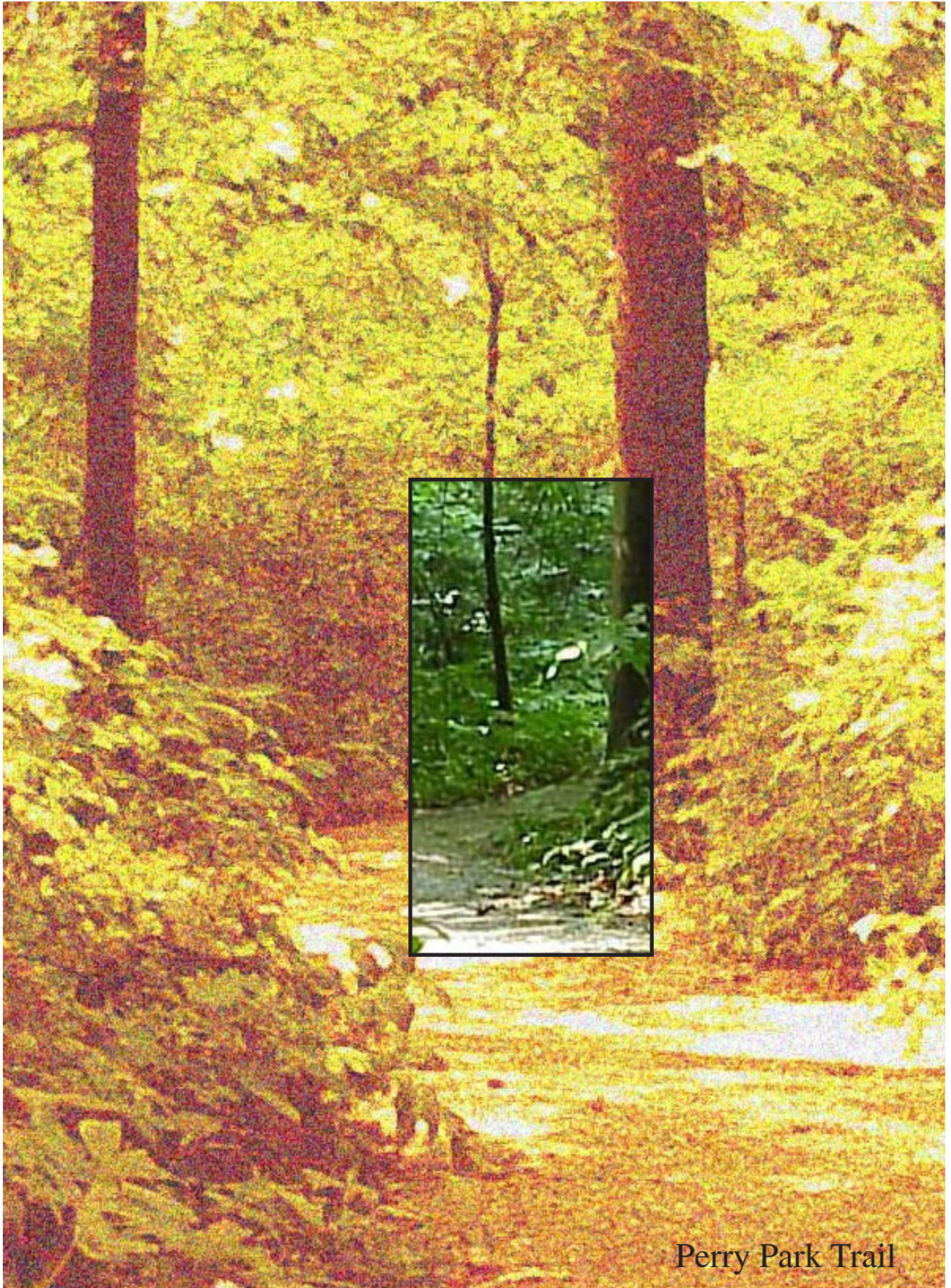
## Park Master Plans

The following list identifies those parks having master plans and the dates that they were approved. The planners recognized that the needs of each park may have changed since the plan approval. The planners also recognized the need to review and perhaps update existing master plans and to create master plans for all lands under the jurisdiction of Indy Parks.

- Carson Park (1981)
- Paul Ruster Park (1983)
- Northwestway Park (1983-revised-2001)
- Clermont Park (1983)
- Tarkington Park (1985)
- Haughville Park (1985)
- Eagle Creek Park (1985-revised-1997)
- Sahm Park (1986)
- George Washington Park (1986)
- Southeastway Park (1987)
- Southwestway Park (1987)
- Fall Creek Parkway/Woolens Garden/Skiles Test Nature Park (1988)
- Southside Park (1988)
- Arsenal Park (1988)
- Garfield Park (1989)
- Ellenberger Park (1989-revised 2001)
- Christian Park (1990)
- Post Road Community Park (1990)
- Eagle Highlands Park (1991)
- Franklin/Edgewood Park (1991)
- Gustafson (1993)
- Tolin-Akeman (1994)
- Juan Solomon (1996)
- Raymond Park (1997)
- Rhodius Park (1997)
- Thatcher Park (1999)
- Bowman Park (2001)
- Clayton & LaSalle Park (2001)
- Highland Park (2001)
- Willard Park (2001)
- Emhardt Park (In Progress)
- Canterbury Park (In Progress)
- Alice Carter Place (In Progress)
- Southeastway Park (In Progress)
- Southwestway Park (In Progress)
- Garfield Park Cultural Landscape Report (In Progress)







Perry Park Trail



# Natural Resources

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## NATURAL RESOURCES & LAND STEWARDSHIP

In 1993, Indy Parks ushered in many positive changes, which will continue to evolve and influence the Indianapolis park system into the 21st Century. As a result of creating the ten-year strategic plan, *Pathways to Success*, changes were implemented that embodied the newest and best approaches to the field of park and recreation management. One of the pathways called for Stewardship of community spaces. The Land Stewardship Section of Indy Parks manages natural resource areas within parks.

Indy Parks recognizes the need to manage natural areas, a change from the old philosophy of no management at all. Today's natural plant communities are isolated fragments, lacking the stability of larger ecosystems. These small fragments are very susceptible to degradation. One negative impact is caused by biological pollutants. An example of a biological pollutant was introduced in the form of nonnative plant species, some of which invade and displace native plant communities. Careful management of remnant natural spaces will help protect these dynamic and unique natural systems for which people and wildlife depend.

The land is subject to continuous change. The last glacier retreated from the central region of the state over 18,000 years ago. This glacier overrode and cleared the previous vegetation, leaving a bare surface for the next wave of plants to succeed. European settlement was the next major disturbance on the landscape. The original flora was cleared in less than 200 years and often replaced with plants native to Europe and Asia.

Parks preserve open spaces that contain some natural areas. Nonnative plants dominate many of the abandoned agricultural fields and other open spaces in parks. Depending on proposed land use, some of the large fields located in parks can be managed to reclaim the naturalness of the site. In an effort to restore the native landscape, land stewards reintroduce indigenous species. Native vegetation is generally less expensive to maintain and is ideal for recreation such as hiking, nature exploring and wildlife viewing. Native plant introduction and management of degraded sites will increase biotic diversity while improving the land's ability to cycle air, water and nutrients.

Indy Parks manages over 10,400 acres of parkland and greenways. Protection of natural areas and restorative management of open spaces are keys to sustaining a healthy living environment and vibrant economy. People need natural, quiet areas to recreate, enjoy nature and balance an often fast-paced lifestyle. Other benefits that natural spaces provide include their ability to reduce the effects of heat islands, filter air and water contaminants and decrease storm water runoff.

Indy Parks shares a social responsibility to manage natural resources for future generations. Indy Parks coordinates land stewardship programs in cooperation with, and assistance from, other City departments, state and federal agencies, corporations, volunteers, conservation groups, businesses, and universities.

Land Stewardship programs at Indy Parks include:

- Invasive species control
- Wetland restoration and enhancement
- Reforestation of floodplain and upland areas
- Native plant landscaping

- Parkland stewardship plans
- Educational booklets and brochures
- Informational signage
- Countywide inventories
- Specifications for best management practices

## Natural Areas

Exploration, nature observation, hiking, running and picnicking are popular activities in both natural areas and those areas perceived as being natural. A natural setting in park and greenways could be considered the most appropriate environment for most of these popular passive recreation activities.

A small percentage of the remaining woodlots contain natural forest plant communities. Natural areas are represented by plant assemblages and topography that reflect natural changes since the last ice age.

Significant natural areas found are recorded on a database maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves. The natural area types represented in Marion County are:

Mesic Floodplain Forest; Mesic Upland Forest; Dry-Mesic Upland Forest; Wet-Mesic Floodplain; Wetland Fen; and Central Till Plains Flatwoods.

Indy Parks cooperatively manages four State Dedicated Nature Preserves in public trust that comprises 460 acres. Of these preserve acres, — 310 acres contain areas that have intact natural plant communities. The nature preserves within Indy Parks are Woollen's Garden, Marott Park Woods, Eagle's Crest Woods, and Spring Pond.

Other natural areas are present in small portions throughout various park properties including Holliday, Eagle Creek, Southwestway, Southeastway and Raymond Park. These non-preserve sites comprise 575 acres of Indy Parks. The former Fort Benjamin Harrison contains the largest area of forested natural area at 800 acres, which is now protected within the State Park. In total, there are 1,685 acres of natural plant communities at park designations in Marion County.

Some of the state's rarest plants are found in Marion County. These are listed at the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center.

New land acquisitions will help preserve some of the remaining woodlots that contain natural plant communities. It is important to catalog remaining plant communities. Unique sites need to be monitored for qualitative changes and appropriate protection measures should be taken to help ensure their survival.

## Invasive Species Plant Control

A small percentage of the remaining woodlots are natural. The naturalness of a site is compromised when invasive plants choke native flowers, grasses, sedges, shrubs and trees. When this happens, the natural diversity (or biodiversity) of an ecosystem is compromised. Common yard plants are some of the biggest problem species in natural areas. Wintercreeper vine, burning bush, and privet are a few of the problem plants. Efforts are ongoing to control the worst invasive plants before they destroy natural areas. Indy Parks is able to complete an average of 45 acres of invasive plant control each year.



Holliday Park  
Native Spring Wildflowers



Marott Park  
Invasive garlic mustard displacing Spring wildflowers



Marott Park  
Local Sierra Club group pulling garlic mustard to save the Spring wildflowers



# Natural Resources

Many of the woodlands in the county have been overtaken by bush honeysuckle. As the honeysuckle reaches maturity, the native wildflowers, grasses, seedling trees and shrubs die off leaving bare soil in a forest that can no longer regenerate. The honeysuckle bushes are being controlled and native plants are being reintroduced.



Bush honeysuckle invasion.



Butler University, Dr. Dolan conducts floral inventories so changes in the plant community can be monitored.

## Wetland Restoration

Indiana has lost 85% of its original wetlands due to farming and development pressure. Wetlands are being reestablished in Indy Parks each year. Part of the work includes restoring the hydrology by removing field tiles and reintroducing sedges, rushes, grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. Over 50,000 wetland plants have been installed over the last seven years.



Eagle Creek Park, IUPUI Center for Earth and Environmental Sciences doing restoration work.



Raymond Park  
Science classes helped restore this wetland sedge meadow.



## Reintroduction of Native Plant Communities

Much of the land was cleared of vegetation by the mid-1800s. Open spaces that were previously in another land use are being reclaimed and managed as wildlife habitats. Large agricultural fields and turf areas are planted to mitigate the effects of pollution and to provide the opportunity for nature observation. Indy Parks (with the help of many partners) has installed 45,000 native plants in landscaping projects, planted 30,000 native trees and shrubs, and converted over 85 acres of turf and former agricultural fields into native plant communities.



Eagle Creek Park  
Former farm field planted with prairie seed.



Holliday Park: Conversion from turf grass into native under story plants.

The Land Stewardship Office coordinates restoration programs at Indy Parks in cooperation with park staff and other Indianapolis City departments. State and federal agencies, corporations, volunteers, conservation groups, businesses and universities are also involved. Friends and neighbors are encouraged to contact Indy Parks to learn more about volunteering for restoration programs.

# Natural Resources

## Geographic Setting & Geologic Framework

Marion County is approximately 402 square miles and is located near the geographic center of Indiana. It is situated in the lower third of a large natural region called the Tipton Till Plain. The till plain is a product of several periods of glaciation. Glacial deposits cover the surface of Marion County. These deposits include clay-rich material (till), and alluvial deposits (sand and gravel). At least three glacial advances infilled an early dissected landscape of sedimentary rock. The overlying glacial deposits range from approximately 15 to 300 feet in thickness according to Geology for Environmental Planning in Marion County, Indiana.

Major outwash deposits of sand and gravel are largely concentrated in the White River Valley, but also occur in smaller Buck, Eagle, and Fall Creek stream valleys. The bedrock is naturally exposed in just one place in Marion County. This exposure is just south of Holiday Park in the White River channel and can be observed during dry summer periods.

Indy Parks recognizes its responsibility to help acquire unique natural features such as oxbows, steep ravines and escarpments in stream valleys. These features, preserved within parkland, are important for recreation and education. Nature enthusiasts enjoy scenic natural features. University instructors take students out in the field to educate them in natural history, ecology, geography and geology.

## Topography of Marion County

Landscapes are very dynamic and evolve over time through continuous processes of erosion and deposition. The last glacier that retreated from the Marion County area left a gently rolling surface. Meltwater flowing under the ice is thought to have formed part of the White River valley; however, most of the major features were formed by very large rivers and streams from the melting and retreating ice lying farther to the north. The relatively deep valleys of the White River and Fall Creek are prominent topographical features that now serve as floodplains for modern streams.

While the local relief is rarely more than 100 feet, the elevation difference within the county is roughly 267 feet. With so little variation in topography, almost any overlook becomes a unique feature. Glenn's Valley and Southwestway Parks contain overlooks situated

on what was a large glacial river delta. Mann Hill in Southwestway Park is a delta feature of glacial origin that stands 170 feet over the White River floodplain. Eagle Crest Nature Preserve houses a bluff, which drops 60 feet to the valley floor. Such parks containing hilly areas serve many purposes such as habitat for rare plant communities, recreational opportunities, and scenic views.



Eagle Creek Park  
Scenic overlook from Eagles Crest Nature Preserve

## Marion County: Vegetation at Settlement

Historical written information gives a better understanding of the plant communities before European settlement. The landscape held at least three peat bog remnants and roughly 3,000 acres of open swamp and marsh. Over 99 percent of the land area was closed canopy forest. This information is available now in digital formats and it will be used to interpret our natural heritage, aid in restoration activities, and to locate unique geological and natural features.

Witness tree data and 1911 soil maps were reproduced in a digital format using GIS technology. The IUPUI Center for Earth and Environmental Science (CEES) was provided a grant by Indy Parks that helped fund a project to provide tools to interpret pre-settlement vegetation information for Marion County. This project was done in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The report is available as hard copy and digital format for GIS applications.

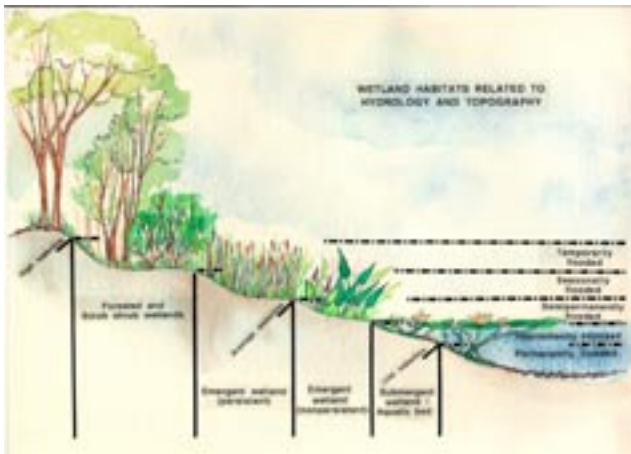
## Open Space Characteristics

Rural open space (vacant land) is defined for this document as tracts of land with relatively few artificial structures. These open green spaces are often vegetated with seasonal row crops, grass, wooded tracts, old field and riparian wetland vegetation. The gently rolling to nearly flat topography in the Southeast and Southwest corners of the county contain large areas of open space now being used for agriculture. The remaining contiguous wooded open space is primarily concentrated in steep ravine topography around Eagle Creek and Geist Reservoirs. Scattered woodlands in other parts of the county are typically found in floodplains or wet depression areas that could not be easily drained. In urban areas, potential land use is limited by impervious surfaces and surrounding land use. By contrast, open space can be managed in a wider variety of ways.

## Wetlands

Wetlands in Marion County range from the open man-made detention basins and reservoirs to the more natural springs, seeps, seasonal ponds and marshes.

According to Cowardin et al., in 1979, "Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water."



Artwork by Dawn Kroh

Many of the springs, seeps and seasonal ponds are not on wetland maps and escape attention. Most of the man-made wetlands are more obvious to the casual observer because of the typical open characteristic of detention basins, ponds or reservoirs.

The reservoir at Eagle Creek Park serves recreational needs by providing a water body for fishing, swimming, canoeing, rowing, sailing and nature observation.

During the summer and fall, lowered water levels expose mud flats that provide habitat for shore birds and waterfowl. This naturalized wetland environment is large enough to attract a diverse population of birds, often rare species. The engineered habitat has provided a resource that has gained national attention for its excellent bird watching opportunities.

Over 75 percent of the Marion County landscape at the turn of the 19th century contained poorly drained upland flatwoods with depressions that ponded in the Spring and Fall.

Vernal pools were the most common wetlands in the Marion County area. The vegetation communities included Beech, Oak, Maple, Elm, Ash and Walnut trees. Today, in the remaining seasonal pools, the songs of the Spring Peeper frogs can be heard in March and April during breeding.

Often smaller and less recognizable wetlands and communities are the seeps that trickle out of exposed hills and stream banks. Seeps and springs often flow year round. Under the right conditions, seeps and springs may form fens, which are water saturated deep muck soils formed by the decay of vegetation. Fen plant communities are rare in Marion County.

Holliday Park has a high quality fen near the river, and several hill slopes where seeps are very visible from the trail. Lesser known are the small seeps in Eagle Creek Park and at Southwestway Park.

These fen and other wetland areas have unique plant communities. All known remaining wetland areas in Marion County have moderate to severe cultural impacts, such as, damage from invading, non-native vegetation and chemical runoff. These small wetlands also provide some of the habitat requirements for birds, bats, dragonflies and butterflies.

Cold Springs Road is true to its name. Along the roadside ditch are seeps that were tiled into concrete collection tanks. One example is the small spring wetland at the entrance to Lake Sullivan and the Major



# Natural Resources

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Taylor Velodrome. Although the site has undergone many cultural impacts, it attracts wildlife such as redwing blackbirds, frogs, and dragonflies.



Lake Sullivan Marsh

At Lake Sullivan Marsh, the beaver performs ecological functions including ponding water to increase the water supply during summer months. The beaver opens the canopy so more sunlight can produce a greater plant diversity and habitat for a wider variety of animals.

The Lake Sullivan marsh area is an excellent area for wildlife observation and education. The area is used regularly by the IUPUI, CEES for training school teachers and others about watershed protection.

Riparian corridors and woodlots contain some of the remaining wetlands in Marion County. Indy Parks has an increasing number of wetland areas under management due to greenway development and parks that historically have areas too wet for private development. Indy Parks and other city departments share the responsibility of maintaining natural and engineered wetlands.

Wetlands are now being recognized for the functions of treating storm water runoff and improving stream quality. The Indianapolis Department of Public Works has built a 42-acre wetland to improve stream quality and flood storage at Interstate 70 and Pogue's Run Creek. This engineered wetland is being managed by Indy Parks Greenways as a nature observation and educational site in partnership with IUPUI, CEES.

## Detention Basins

There are no natural lakes or ponds in Marion County, however, engineered lakes and ponds are a common sight in Indianapolis. These basins act as small reservoirs that temporarily hold storm water runoff and release it at a controlled rate into the drainage systems. Storm water basins in parks are usually not constructed to serve a natural function such as filtering water or providing wildlife habitat.

Most existing basins have limestone rip rap to line the steep shorelines. However, there is a updated storm-water ordinance that mandates naturalized basins or engineered wetlands. These provide benefits of improved aesthetics, increased water filtration and wildlife habitat.

## Mitigated Wetlands

Indy Parks is often contacted by design engineers about potential mitigation sites. Wetland mitigation is a regulated wetland replacement program. Building a wetland is usually a condition before a permit is issued to drain or fill an existing wetland. Indy Parks evaluates whether to provide places for wetland mitigation on a per case basis.

## Rivers and Streams

Numerous creeks, brooks, runs and ditches drain Marion County. They all eventually flow into the White River (although Buck Creek in the southeast corner of the county takes a roundabout route via the Big Blue River). In 1983, the Federal Emergency Management Agency identified 34 Marion County streams. These streams, plus 4 others identified by park staff, represent the bulk of Marion County waterways with a collective length of 233.5 miles.

Natural characteristics of major waterways include relatively stable flow rates, low sediment and nitrogen loads, sustained and adequate dissolved oxygen levels, meandering channels, natural plant communities and corresponding native plant and animal diversity.

From an ecological standpoint, the highest and best use for riparian corridors is as managed natural space. The National Park Service published a booklet called, [How Greenways Work: A Handbook on Ecology](#) that explains the ecological functions of riparian corridors.

The handbook lists six ecological functions of riparian corridors. These functions are: 1) as habitat for plant and animal communities 2) as a conduit for plants, animals, water, sediment, and chemicals 3) as a barrier preventing movement 4) as a filter allowing some things to pass while inhibiting others 5) as a source for animals or seeds which move to other parts of the landscape and 6) as a sink for trapping sediment, toxins, or nutrients.

In its natural form, the riparian corridor fully functions to absorb water, reduce flooding, and recharge ground and aquifer water resources. The water stored within the land is then slowly released back into rivers and streams, sustaining summer water flows in periods of no precipitation. Land use in the floodplain directly affects the natural function of the corridor.

The public benefits of riparian corridors have been acknowledged since the early parkway systems. Indy Parks Greenways is building more access to meet the demand for self-directed passive recreation. The 2004 Indianapolis Greenways Plan further explains the quality-of-life benefits and the challenges facing the city as it continues to work towards improving water quality.

## Urban Forestry

Marion County and its Cities exist under the canopy of our urban forest. The urban forest is a term used for the total of all vegetation growing within an urban area. Trees are the dominant features of the urban forest. The amount of trees within an urban forest is often expressed as a percentage of land area covered by trees as seen from above. Marion County's canopy cover varies by township and is shown below.

Indy Parks is responsible for flora issues on all City and County owned property. This includes parks, street right of ways and other properties owned by local governments. Indy Parks is therefore responsible for over 1 million trees. Due to city and community efforts, Indianapolis has been awarded the distinction of being a Tree City USA for the past 16 years.

Indy Parks Forestry section ensures public safety by maintaining street and park trees and by responding to tree related emergencies such as storm events.

Over the next five-year period, urban forestry efforts will be concentrated on the following priorities:

- Continuing to provide essential tree maintenance services within Marion County.
- Expand the care provided to young trees within the park system.
- Implementation of suggestions provided by the Mayor's Task Force on Tree Issues.
- Creation of an urban forestry advisory board for Marion County.
- Increasing overall canopy coverage within Marion County.

# Natural Resources

## Marion County: Wildlife at Settlement

From 1820 to 1822, Government Land Office Surveyors superimposed a grid that framed and set order to the wilderness area that became Marion County.

Early settlers encountered a wild landscape described in *A Home in the Woods*. This account describes a land of endless trees. The animals were reported to include walleyed pike (fish), ruffed grouse (bird), turkey, squirrel, bobcat, deer, and an occasional bear. The story told about the challenges of pioneer life and joys of having a land with abundant natural resources.

The wilderness of Marion County was mostly forested swampland. It was quickly converted to support a European style of agriculture. By 1876, 60 percent of the original forested sites were cleared primarily for agricultural purposes. By the early 1900s, most of the original vegetation was heavily disturbed or completely removed.



Cleared forest area for agriculture purposes  
Bass Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Habitat and wildlife are codependent. Habitat is the total minimum environment needed by animals for shelter, cover, water, and food to ensure survival and reproduction.

Animals perform ecological functions that regenerate habitat including pollination, seed dispersal, and decomposition. Wildlife and habitat together provide a food chain for herbivores and carnivores that support the predator-prey relationships that form a balanced ecosystem.

The type and quantity of resident and migratory wildlife depends on the availability of habitat. In

large natural areas, the food chain and original habitat structure may support forest dwelling wildlife like the Prothonotary Warbler, a forest dwelling neotropical migrant.

Some predatory animals, such as the great horned owl, fox, and weasel require a relatively large range with several types of habitats for shelter and cover. Some species of wildlife, such as the opossum, can survive in an urban habitat.

The habitat requirements needed to attract and sustain certain kinds of wildlife are available. However, the habitat and wildlife in Marion County has not been inventoried in a comprehensive way. More information is needed to begin management and protection strategies for wildlife and habitat.

Wildlife provides many people with enjoyable opportunities for education and recreation. The nature centers at Indy Parks are filled to capacity each year due to the demand for environmental education and wildlife programs.

The public, as well as private groups like the Amos Butler Audubon Chapter, Sierra Club Heartlands Group, and The Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society share their joy and appreciation of wildlife and flora with children and adults.

Popular wildlife species in Marion County include birds, chipmunks, butterflies, lightning bugs, dragonflies, geese, ducks, turtles, fish, raccoons, snakes, bats, and deer.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife regulates game and non-game wildlife in Indiana. The Division of Fish and Wildlife and Indy Parks manages public access sites in Marion County to help meet the demand for fishing.





Fishing, catch and release

The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center is maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves. This database is updated with information on animals that have special status at a federal and/or state level. The sites for rare habitats and animals are monitored so protection strategies may prevent further loss or extinction. Some of the species listed are not confirmed and may no longer be present.

The majority of wildlife in Marion County relies on open fallow fields, woodlots, and riparian corridors for habitat. As fallow farm fields make way for an expanding population, the parks and greenways may be some of the last areas that could offer habitat for some species of wildlife in Marion County.

In an effort to protect habitat for wildlife, The Central Indiana Land Trust Inc., INDNR, citizens groups, Indy Parks, and conservation groups are acquiring lands for wildlife and recreational use. Acquisition and funding issues are among topics of serious discussion as efforts are made to prioritize lands for public use that provides environmental quality, habitat, wildlife and recreation opportunities.

## Soils in Marion County

The soil types are organized and named according to their characteristics. The Soil Survey of Marion County, Indiana (1978) provides an explanation of the soil classification system and the mapping of soil types.

The survey is designed to assist in land use planning and soil management. Qualitative categories were created that rate soil characteristics and limitations for various land uses. These categories are: building site development, sanitary facilities, water management, construction materials, recreational development, crop management, and woodland management.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District provide technical assistance in determining soil limitations and recommending best management practices.

Determining the general soil associations at the watershed level is one tool used for locating potential parkland and planning recreation areas. Soil behavior is a term used to describe soil limitations based on how different types of soil react to specified land uses. The soil wetness, percolation, or shrink and swell behavior can be termed good or poor depending on the proposed use. Wet or poorly drained soil may not be considered a proper building foundation for load-bearing structures, whereas, wet or poorly drained soils are integral to wetland and forest natural systems.

Relatively undisturbed soils in a forest or wetland may be better used for passive recreation and protected and managed as a conservation or natural area. Recreational lands may also require space for parking and buildings to support outdoor and indoor activities. Soil limitations can play a key role in determining the sustainable use of the structure and the cost of maintenance.

# Natural Resources

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Silt Deposit

Photo by INDNR, Division of Soil Conservation

The soil, for all practical purposes, is a non-renewable resource. Approximately seven inches of the estimated fourteen inches of pre-settlement topsoil is no longer present in Marion County. Unprotected soil in dry or wet conditions is eroded by blowing or washing away.

The soils that are present are deficient in valuable nutrients such as carbon. These nutrients are being removed faster than they are replaced. It is important to always follow best management practices and regulations to protect soil and water bodies from further degradation.





Holiday Park



# Cultural Legacy

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The man-made or **Cultural Legacy** section of the inventory describes the historic and modern features of the built environment as they relate to recreation opportunities in the county.

## INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service (NPS) has developed guidelines for identifying, categorizing and preserving cultural features (landscapes, archeological sites and historic properties). A complete Cultural Landscape Inventory of the county is beyond the scope of this park comprehensive plan. However, these guidelines will be used to inventory the primary existing cultural features that are associated with recreation opportunities located here. Future actions, which are identified in this Plan, will identify cultural features associated with recreation and leisure activities in the county that are owned by Indy Parks.

## PEOPLE

In recognizing the importance of the cultural history of Indianapolis and Marion County as a part of the recreational experience, a brief history of its people is included here.

### Historic Communities

According to James J. Divita in the Encyclopedia of Indianapolis, “Indianapolis’ first residents were squatters along the banks of White River, Fall Creek, Pogue’s Run and Pleasant Run.” Among them were John McCormick and George Pogue. Later early residents of the area included Cheney Lively Briton, Alexander Ralston’s housekeeper and probably the first permanent African-American resident; Calvin Fletcher, and Nicholas McCarty. Appendices in Peopling Indiana show a total population in Marion County of 24,103 in 1850, with 1945 (8.09%) foreign born. The influx of immigrants peaked in 1910, when the census showed a foreign born population of 21,210 but still, 8.04% of the total population. Other appendices show that the primary countries’ of origin in 1869 were Canada, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland, and Wales.

Near its peak, in 1910, the largest numbers of foreign born originated in Austria, Canada, England, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Russia, and Turkey-Europe. In 1869 and 1910 the largest foreign born population originated

in Germany with 69% and 42%, respectively, of the immigrants. The influence of German immigrants is still evident today with the popular annual Oktoberfest held at the privately owned German Park (30 acre, 8600 South Meridian Street), and at the Athenaeum (401 East Michigan Street), the German cultural and social center. The Athenaeum originally housed a gymnasium, restaurant, bowling alleys, concert-hall ballroom and a wall-enclosed beer garden with concert pavilion. Today, the Athenaeum is still a social and cultural center that includes a YMCA location, a theater group and a restaurant.

In a similar time period, the Native-American population rose from 4 people in 1870 to 2,181 people in 2000. There were a reported 650 African-Americans in Marion County in 1850, and 207,964 in 2000. Indianapolis does not have as diverse of an ethnic heritage as other cities, such as Chicago and Detroit, however, its moniker of being the “Crossroads of America” speaks to the growth of contemporary communities here.

## PLACES

Recreation places and the types of leisure activities have changed as the social and economic context of the world has evolved. Placing the development of parks in this context is a means to understand the correlation between park type, activities and needs and the growth of the city from a small settlement on the White River to its position as the 12<sup>th</sup> largest city in the United States. The following history of parks in Indianapolis documents the development of its park and recreation activities.

### History of Parks & Recreation

The following text was written by Michelle D. Hale for The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis.

A time sequence of specific park development was inserted by the planners to establish a history and context for park acquisition and development. Text located in brackets [ ] is written by the planners.

During the early planning and development of the city there seemed no need for planned public parks. Alexander Ralston’s original plan (1821) of the Mile Square did not include any designated public spaces. Early residents used pastures, cemeteries, and all undeveloped land about them as recreational areas.

As the Civil War approached and the city experienced congestion for the first time, however, citizen action in favor of public parks began slowly to build. In 1859 Timothy Fletcher donated a plot of land to the city with the provision that it be improved and used as a park. The City Council, believing Fletcher's gesture was a ruse to elevate the value of his adjacent land, refused his offer. Other private donations were also viewed with suspicion, and the council chose not to act upon them.

Using a different tactic, George Merritt was responsible for the first public park in Indianapolis. He repeatedly petitioned state and local authorities for donation of state land for use as a public park. Governor Oliver P. Morton offered the land now known as Military Park for use as a recreation area, and in 1864 the City Council took over protective control of Military Park as well as University Square and the Governor's Circle.

[Although the Civil War slowed the development of new, urban Romantic landscapes like that at Central Park (1857) in New York; the city still followed the trend for large urban parks designed for passive recreation. The example set by Central Park and emulated in park design throughout the United States provided a "variety of rural scenes" (open meadows, canopied areas, ponds, rock formations) and separate pedestrian and vehicular routes. As is typical for the Midwest, efforts for such development lagged behind coastal areas, but still moved forward. Midwestern landscape architects and architects, (e.g. Jens Jensen and Frank Lloyd Wright, etc.) eventually applied a Midwestern "hand" to park and residential design. These designers and their peers, emulated the Midwestern natural landscape, using stratified limestone, winding stream-like water features and native plant species in the planting beds. The following paragraph identifies the first examples in Indianapolis of the larger, strolling parks located around the periphery of the existing city.]

By the 1870s citizens became more vocal in their desire for public parks, and the City Council launched a tentative program for park purchases. In 1870 the city acquired Brookside Park from the heirs of Calvin Fletcher. Three years later a group of northside residents petitioned the council for a park along Fall Creek, with seven citizens donating 91.5 acres. The northside project failed to gain council support,

but similar efforts by a group of southside residents ultimately led to the purchase of Southern Park, later renamed Garfield Park. Again the council did not develop this property, and the city leased it to the Indiana Trotting Association between 1877 and 1880.

By the 1880s residents privately and in combination with the city [another typical Midwestern action] improved all these park lands. Merritt funded Military Park's original improvements and subsequently installed a playground. Neighbors of the University Square property voluntarily landscaped the park, and the Odd Fellows of Indiana erected a statue of Vice-President Schuyler Colfax there. Citizens planted trees in Garfield Park and carried other improvements funded by the council. Additionally, residents in the area of St. Clair Square created their own park, collecting subscriptions, laying walks, and planting trees. These 19<sup>th</sup> century public parks were intended for use as passive recreation areas where middle class and wealthy citizens could relax and enjoy nature.

[The time period commencing after the Civil War and ending at the turn of the century can best be described as a transitional period in landscape design. The early manipulation of the North American landscape was transformed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century into an American design entity that was based in social, political, technical, and environmental principles that elevated "design" to a new role. At the same time that social concerns were being strengthened by the revitalization of the country after the war, the increasing numbers of city dwellers were becoming less interested with the passive activities offered at the public parks and demanded more active recreation facilities.

The 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia showed the acculturation of the United States as a world class country. Among various exhibits of industrial and commercial affluence; planting beds featured exotic and ornamental specimens planted in various geometric shapes. This departure from the naturalistic landscape approach was inspired by the writings of British horticulturist, J. C. Loudon, who advocated non-native species and "artistic" arrangements of plants. Color, variety of species and the visual impact of individual features were more important than the cohesiveness of a unified design. Planting designs using "bedding" plants were inspired by this exposition and remain popular today.

# Cultural Legacy

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According to Pregill & Volkman in Landscapes in History, “To Victorians, leisure represented the opportunity for educational and morally uplifting travel, social contacts and physical recreation.” The Romantic landscapes were “improved” with features that were less a part of a unified design statement and more an embellishment on the land. The public expected entertainment, variety and organized activities at the parks. Improvements included formal promenades, bandshells, conservatories, zoos, floral displays and amusement areas. Garfield Park (1873) was “improved “ using these principles.]

[During this same period, the two small parcels of land (Indianola-1896, McCarty Triangle-1897) were acquired for parks.]

[Near the end of the 19th century, the World’s Columbian Exposition in 1893, significantly changed the way a city was planned. The two cultural ideals of the 19th century—the physical improvement of the environment, and the moral improvement of society—coalesced, and were given an American identity called the City Beautiful Movement. The four components of the movement were (1) Civic Design, (2) Civic Art, (3) Civic Reform, and (4) Civic Improvement. Among the objectives of the movement were to establish hygienic urban conditions, create focal points in the streetscape to visually unify the city, and to treat open spaces as a critical urban need, emphasizing active rather than passive recreation.]

City officials immediately consulted nationally prominent park designers to guide park development. The Commercial Club initially hired Joseph Earnshaw, who recommended that sites be purchased and developed along White River and Fall Creek, connected by a chain of small parks and interconnecting parkways. Once established, the park board conducted a survey of possible park sites and commissioned John C. Olmsted, stepson of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. to develop a plan for future parks. The Olmsted plan, like the Earnshaw plan, recommended that local waterways be the focus of a system that would include small parks, boulevards, several larger local parks, and a large public reservation.

Mayor Thomas Taggart, who assumed office in 1895, was a strong supporter of parks and was instrumental in laying the foundations for the park system. At his behest the council approved a limited version of the

Olmsted Plan and authorized the purchase of over 1,100 acres of land, including much of what now is Riverside Park. [Brookside (1898), Spades (1898) and Highland Park (1898) were acquired at this time.]

Much of the land bought at this time had previously been used as unauthorized dumping grounds. The park department saw its job as ridding the city of unclean and unhealthy areas as well as providing beautiful recreation spaces. Park improvements included landscaping, building water features, and adding walking paths and benches, with the bulk of the work focusing on Riverside and Garfield parks. Parks also began to provide entertainment such as the 18-hole golf course, zoo, and steamboat cruises on White River at Riverside Park.

In 1905 the Board of Park Commissioners learned of George Kessler (1862-1923), who was both a city planner and a landscape architect, and his excellent work on the Kansas City park and boulevard system. Kessler was hired in 1908 as the Consulting Landscape Architect and secretary of the park board. He retained the landscape architect position until 1915. During his employment, Kessler proceeded to update many of the earlier plans and introduced ideas that quickly added to the beauty of Indianapolis. In 1909 he helped pass a new park law that allowed the department to levy taxes for park purchases and improvements. Other laws enacted in 1913 and 1919 increased the department’s self-sufficiency and taxing power. The legislation enabled the department to expand, acquire new property, and begin boulevard construction.

Despite the city’s official sponsorship, citizens continued to actively support park development during the early 1900s by donating property or funding park improvements. The bequests of Alfred Burdsal and George Rhodius in 1911 funded the purchase and development of Willard Park (1907), Burdsal Parkway, and Rhodius Park (1913). [Pleasant Run Parkway was established in 1912, Fall Creek Parkway in 1914, and White River Parkway in 1916. The establishment of Pleasant Run Parkway began the connection of Ellenberger Park (1911) to Garfield Park. South Grove Golf Course (1902), Irvington Circle (1904), Wilbur Shaw Hill (1908) were all a response to the need for variety in recreation activities. The Iron Skillet Restaurant (1908) overlooks the Coffin Golf Course (1920).] Woolens Gardens (1909) was donated to the



city by William Watson Woolens, who asked that the land be preserved as a bird sanctuary and botanical study area. John H. Holliday (1916) deeded his 80-acre estate to the city for use as a public park. Municipal Gardens (1915) was originally called Casino Gardens, a private canoe and yacht club, and then dance hall. It was renamed Municipal Gardens in 1927.]

[Another important topic that was beginning to be addressed in the leisure parks of the late 19th century was that of active recreation. Organized sports were becoming popular as a result of social concerns for the well-being of poorer urban children and the assimilation of non-English speaking immigrants. In other, more well-to-do neighborhoods, active recreational activities were in vogue, perhaps as a result of the national organization of such activities as football (1895) and gymnastics (1881). Hundreds of adults and children participated in sandlot activities. These activities and other active sports, required more space, equipment and constructed features and led to more “improvements” in the already existing parks.]

The national trend for active recreational opportunities resulted in the development of playgrounds. With the encouragement of President Theodore Roosevelt, the great outdoorsmen, the Playground Association of America was organized in 1906. Large cities allocated money and land to develop these facilities. The city of Boston authorized the development of 20 playgrounds, and the city of Chicago allocated \$1,000,000 for the construction of small parks and pleasure grounds containing not more than 10 acres.]

[Early playgrounds were little more than a barren lot with play equipment (swings and teeter-totters, etc.) installed. Other small playgrounds were developed on school property if space permitted, offering school children year-round opportunities for supervised activities and exercise. As money and interest developed, later playgrounds were designed by landscape architects and typically displayed a better sense of organization, circulation, function and safety.]

The “typical” playground, although officially called a park, offered a variety of activities for all ages of people. Norman T. Newton describes the playgrounds in Design on the Land in the following way: Age groups were given distinctive areas, appropriately furnished: play spaces for children, open-air exercise areas for men and women, usually divided by sexes,

courts for games, wading and swimming pools, and fieldhouses for indoor recreation. In each case the park... included a bit of greenery thought essential to a visual oasis in a neighborhood. Landscape features that were associated with playground design include a central pavilion or fieldhouse set among trees, a large open space for ball games, a perimeter path, space for exercise equipment, and perimeter trees to define the site. The number of park-school complexes located historically in Indianapolis is unclear at this time, but the following neighborhood parks were acquired in this time period. Watkins Park (1913), Lot K (1915) and Fall Creek and 30<sup>th</sup> Park (1910) were established as a node on the parkway, and other small land acquisitions included Noble Place (1912), Brightwood (1916), and Greer Park (1917).]

During World War I the city suspended most park activities and funding. In the 1920s the department resumed park purchases and expansion. The park system grew to include 24 parks and parkways, with land totaling approximately 1,900 acres.

During the 1920s, a comprehensive plan for park development was prepared by landscape architect Lawrence V. Sheridan. This plan incorporated the early work of Olmsted, Powers and Kessler into an even larger plan that encompassed the entire county. Sheridan’s plan was excellent for its time, however, it was not regularly updated by subsequent planners; with the result that population growth began to out-strip development.

The idea that public parks should provide active, as well as passive recreation originally surfaced before WWII, but recreational programming did not become a high priority until later. As early as 1910 the park board joined with public school and library officials to provide recreational programs, gradually accepting more of this responsibility. In 1919 a new park law transferred the recreation division from the City’s health department to the public parks department, which began constructing a system of playgrounds, pools, and community recreational centers in parks. Parks soon provided a variety of year round athletic programming, classes, clubs, and special events. The centers also provided bathing facilities, day nurseries, dental clinics, and served as a neighborhood headquarters for welfare agencies.

[Recreation and sports centers that were opened at

# Cultural Legacy

this time included Garfield (1922), Emhardt Stadium (1923), and Brookside (1928). Golf courses included Pleasant Run (1922), Douglass (1926), and Sarah Shank (1928). Specialty parks included Miniature Park (1923), and the Watson Road Bird Preserve (1925).

The influence of the Playground Association and the increased interest in active recreation is evidenced by the number of neighborhood parks that were established in the 1920s. A total of 15 neighborhood parks were built and included the following:

J. T. V. Hill	(1921)	Alice Carter Place	(1922)
Haughville	(1922)	Kelly	(1922)
Frank Young	(1922)	Babe Denny	(1923)
Hawthorne	(1923)	Porter Playfield	(1924)
Bertha Ross	(1925)	Denver	(1925)
John Ed	(1925)		
Centennial & Groff	(1926)		
Broadway & 61 <sup>st</sup>	(1928)		
Lentz	(1928)		
Arsenal	(1929)		

At the same time that small playgrounds were being developed in neighborhoods to realize the Playground Association's goal of "a playground for every child, within one-half mile of its home," larger parks with a variety of amenities were also being developed. These parks, because of their acreage, offered a variety of recreational opportunities that could not be offered in smaller playgrounds. Larger community parks that were acquired at this time were Christian Park (1921) and Washington Park (1923-The zoo was not built until 1964).]

During the 1930s the system of neighborhood parks, playgrounds, boulevards, and recreation areas in Indianapolis grew despite the Great Depression. The department, however, began to charge fees for some of its operations, such as the golf courses, swimming pools, and community houses, to make them self-sustaining. At the same time volunteers from women's groups, civic organizations, and WPA and CWA workers augmented the parks' work force. Park activities focused on city beautification projects and year-round recreational activities: completing Lake Sullivan, constructing wading pools, staffing summer playgrounds, landscaping the boulevards and public properties, and sponsoring dances. Park community houses became popular, low-cost centers of activity

during the 1930s, housing many clubs and classes as well as providing space for other groups.

[The length of the following list of properties acquired in the 1930s supports evidence that the expansion of the parks was greater in the 1920s, before the Great Depression, and improvements in existing parks were more popular in the 1930s. Christian Park Recreation Center was opened in 1932, and only 4 neighborhood parks were acquired (Acorn (1930), Reverend Mozel Sanders (1931), Bethel Park (1935) and Forest Manor (1937).]

Despite the expansion of park facilities and programs, a Charity Organization Society study in 1937 found only 20 percent of public park acreage was within a two-mile radius of half of the residential population. The park department's major strategies for land acquisition had been to receive donations or purchase cheap land on the outskirts of town, the intended policy of buying small parcels of land within walking distance of all residents throughout the city remained largely unimplemented by the 1940s. [This is evidenced by the addition of only one neighborhood park before the war—Ross-Claypool (1940).]

The World War II years added temporary new responsibilities for the public parks—running canteens and clubs for servicemen and providing land for postwar veteran and emergency housing.

[The end of World War II brought the Baby Boom to the United States. The increased population brought a need for more single-family houses (the American Dream), created suburbs, and demanded the expansion of schools and school playgrounds and parks to satisfy the need of the public. The acquisition of more parkland was not the immediate need, however, as evidenced by the few parks that were acquired in the late 1940s. Broad Ripple Park, the former amusement park, and Marott Park were both donated in 1945. Three neighborhood parks—Barton (1946-gift), Tarkington (1945) and Centennial & 20<sup>th</sup> (1946-gift)—were acquired. Another donation to the park department was the Sarge Johnson Boxing Center (1945).]

After the war and into the 1950s however, the park department again turned its attention to recreation and city beautification. The playground system expanded, and parks continued to sponsor a growing number

of clubs, classes, and “teen canteens.” Although the parks had long hosted festivals, the 1950s saw the increase of music festivals, carnivals, and dances, many of which were revenue-producing projects.

By the late 1940s the city renewed its efforts to beautify and restore its parks. Much of the park property and existing facilities had not had significant improvements made to them in at least 20 years, and large bond issues in the early 1950s helped pay for much of the renovation.

Athletics became increasingly important after the 1940s and the parks provided sites for many boxing, basketball, and baseball leagues and tournaments, including some of national significance; ...one of which was the 1958 AAU national championship swimming meet at Broad Ripple Park. Golfing also became a high priority during these years, with the parks department hiring golf pros to assist patrons and oversee courses.

[Parks that were acquired during the 1950s were primarily smaller neighborhood and mini-parks. The neighborhood parks were:

Moreland	(1953)	Virginia Lee O'Brien	(1956)
Ridenour	(1956)	Bowman	(1959)
Sandorf	(1959)		

Mini-parks:

DeQuincy	(1953)	Windsor Village	(1953)
Doris Cowherd	(1956)	Beville	(1959)
Canterbury	(1959)		

Northwestway Park, a community park, was acquired in 1957, as a beginning response to the city moving further from downtown.]

The population boom, which occurred following World War II, found the open space situation worsening and prompted important changes in the county's park management. Prior to 1963, all public parks were under the jurisdiction of one or another of the county's municipalities, the majority being found in Indianapolis. City and county officials recognized the metropolitan character of the county and the need to provide park facilities to those residents living outside of incorporated municipalities, as no suitable areas of sufficient size remained within the corporate boundaries.

This precipitated the creation, in 1963, of the Metropolitan Board of Park Commissioners. It replaced the City Board of Park Commissioners and extended jurisdiction throughout the county with the exception of the towns of Speedway, Lawrence, Beech Grove and Southport.

Rising rates of suburbanization and competition with private sources of recreation during the 1960s forced park officials to change the focus of public parks. Downtown properties increasingly received less attention as the park department devoted resources to parks nearer the suburbs and purchased park land in suburban townships. Financed by Indianapolis and Marion County taxes, the park department purchased Northeastway (now Sahn Park-1961), Southeastway (1961), [Southwestway (1961)] and Eagle Creek Park (1962).

[The 1960s experienced the acquisition of large tracts of land near the county perimeters. Two community parks were acquired-Gustafson (1961) and Perry (1961). Golf courses were constructed at Sahn (1964), Thatcher (1967), and Southwestway (1968); swimming pools were installed at Sahn (1962), Douglass (1968), and Gustafson (1968); and recreation and special leisure facilities-Post Road (1960), Bush Stadium (1967), and the Woodruff Place Esplanades (1962) were acquired. Neighborhood parks were also important acquisitions-11 parks were acquired during this time period:

Faculty Drive	(1961)
Martin Luther King	(1961)
Bellamy	(1962)
Gardner	(1962)
Gateway West	(1963)
Foxhill Manor	(1964)
Carson	(1965)
Southside	(1966)
Dubarry	(1967)
Olin	(1967)
Roselawn	(1968)
Pride mini-park	(1968)]

Not all downtown efforts were forsaken, however, the department began a perennial effort at park promotion by encouraging neighborhoods, clubs, and civic groups to “adopt” and help maintain a park.

Changes continued during the 1970s. A unified gov-



# Cultural Legacy

ernment (UNIGOV) expanded the Indianapolis service boundaries to include all of Marion County and reorganized the Department of Parks and Recreation. Citizen interest in parks fell as suburbanization and park vandalism increased. Public parks also competed for space and resources with urban expansion and renewal efforts. The parks department responded by experimenting with new programs and projects. Using millions of dollars from federal grants and local bond issues, it constructed a system of small, special use parks known as “tot lot” and “vest pocket” parks along highways, refurbished deteriorating facilities, built new facilities, expanded recreational programs, and made extensive improvements to Eagle Creek Park, which opened in 1974. The parks department also renamed many central city parks after notable local and national African-Americans, reflecting the changing nature of park visitors.

[The following lists illustrate the expansion of the parks in the 1970s:

## Recreation Centers:

Southeastway	(1972)	Thatcher	(1976)
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## Golf Courses:

Eagle Creek	(1975)	Smock	(1975)
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## Swimming Pools:

Riverside	(1970)
Wes Montgomery	(1971)
Rhodium	(1971)
Martin Luther King	(1972)
Perry	(1972)
Thatcher	(1972)
Bethel	(1973)
Ellenberger	(1973)
Brookside	(1978)
Willard	(1978)
Garfield	(1979)

## Community Parks:

Wes Montgomery	(1970)
Franklin/Edgewood	(1970)
Paul Ruster	(1970)
German Church & 30 <sup>th</sup>	(1971)
Pedigo Farms	(1971, Raymond Park)
Krannert	(1972)
Oxford Terrace	(1972, Oscar Charleston)
Thatcher	(1973)
Skiles Test	(1974)

## Neighborhood Parks:

Beckwith	(1970)	Franklin & 16 <sup>th</sup>	(1971)
Smock	(1970)	Juan Solomon	(1971)
Tibbs & 21 <sup>st</sup>	(1971)	Robey	(1972)
Stout Field	(1974)		

## Tot lots (Mini-parks):

Stringtown	(1970)
Christina Oaks	(1971)
Andrew Ramsey	(1971)
Clayton & LaSalle	(1972)
Ringgold	(1973)
Sexson	(1973)
Talbot & 29 <sup>th</sup>	(1973)
Hot Shot Tot Lot	(1975)]

While these efforts resulted in notable success, such as the institution of the Indianapolis/Scarborough Peace games, a general lack of park usage, inadequate maintenance, and vandalism became serious problems, especially for central city parks. . . . Parks on the outer edges of the city, especially Eagle Creek Park, and the golf courses, however, offered first rate facilities and programs.

A new parks administration began a greater focus on amateur sports during the 1980s, which inspired a resurgence in park usage and image. The department, in an effort to supply a unique recreation need to the community, began to phase out smaller central city parks in favor of large natural-setting parks and linear parks equipped with fitness and bike paths. Eagle Creek Park became the showcase of the park system during the 1980s, offering a lake, nature trails, and many recreation facilities. Large bond issues funded amateur sports facilities, such as the Lake Sullivan Sports Complex and the Major Taylor Velodrome, which along with the eleven golf courses became venues for special events as well as local and national competitions. The Indianapolis Zoo also relocated from Washington Park in 1986 to the new White River State Park. [The shift in priorities is evidenced by the shortness of the following list of acquisitions:

## Special Leisure Facilities:

Indianapolis Soccer & Sports Center	(1984)
Little League Regional Center	(1989)

## Neighborhood Parks:

Kessler & Illinois	(1982, Friedman Park)
Eagle Highland	(1989)

Linwood & Shelbyville (1989, Tolin-Akeman)

## Mini Parks:

Highway Parcel # 15 (1980)

Finch (1988)]

As of the early 1990s, the Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation continued to fight vandalism and public apathy. While the department offered a wide variety of traditional recreational and nature programs, many were underused due to competition from private and commercial providers of recreational facilities.

The park system of the early 1990s claimed 73 properties, 16 community centers, 13 pools, and 12 golf courses.

[Park acquisitions in the 1990s include:

Whispering Hills Golf Course (1990)

Post Road Community Park (1990)

Glenn's Valley Park (1992)

Juan Solomon Park Addition (1995)

WISH Park (1995)

Thompson Park (1999)

Golf Soccer Fields (1999)

Beginning in the mid 1990's an emphasis has been placed on providing recreation lands to the public through the use of Recreation and Conservation Easements or long term leases. These low cost partnerships have allowed the additions of Town Run Trail Park, The Frank and Judy O'Bannon Soccer Fields and the Golf Soccer Fields. Another avenue for acquiring parkland has been advocacy for donations from land developers. As a part of re-zoning negotiations, acreage has been donated for neighborhood parks as well as floodplain natural areas. Some have included playground and trail improvements or the funds to construct amenities. Examples include Thompson Park, Cloverleaf Conservation Area, the Little Buck Creek Greenway and Retherford Park.

In the early 2000's, the Department partnered with the Indianapolis Parks Foundation, local donors and worked to secure grant funds to purchase 187 acres adjacent to Southwestway Park. The Cottonwood Lakes and Mann Property additions make Southwestway Park the second largest park in Marion County at 586 acres including Winding River Golf Course. In 2003 the Department partnered with the Department

of Public Works to open 43 acres of the Pogues Run Detention Basin to the public for recreational use. The 1.5 miles of trail offer an opportunity for exercise and offer a venue for future art installations.

Through a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, Indy Parks has embarked on a significant expansion of its programmed facilities in recent years. New family recreation centers at Washington Park and Bethel Park, as well as additions at Christian Park, Municipal Gardens and Rhodius Parks will greatly expand the Departments ability to offer low cost recreation programs in additional City neighborhoods. The renovation of the Indy Parks (Garfield) Arts Center will provide a center of focus for County-wide visual, performing and literary arts programs. The new Eagle Creek Park Earth Discovery Center will allow for tremendous expansion of environmental education. The extension of the Monon Trail from Fall Creek south to 10th Street has finally connected much of Indianapolis' north side to downtown.

Grassy Creek Park (2000)

Town Run Trail Park (2000)

Little Buck Greenway (2001)

Mann Property Addition (2002)

Frank and Judy O'Bannon Soccer Fields (2003)

Cottonwood Lakes Addition (2003)

Retherford Park (2003)

Pogues Run Basin (2003)



# Cultural Legacy

## THE KESSLER LEGACY

As mentioned in the History of Indianapolis Parks, George E. Kessler was hired in 1909 to assist with planning the continued growth of the City. The following is a excerpt from the 2003 nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the system Kessler designed.

### Statement of Significance

The Indianapolis Park and Boulevard Plan is significant under Criterion A because it is associated with broad patterns of national, regional and local history, and because it is a response to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century trend to regulate growth in cities. It is also significant under Criterion C because it is the work of George Edward Kessler, a master in landscape architecture, and because it embodies the distinctive design characteristics of a master as a response to urban conditions in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Historical Context

At the turn of the century, the United States was changing from a rural agricultural based country to an industrial world power. This transition brought several challenges, one of which was the articulation of a national identity that would distinguish the United States as a world-class country. Other challenges were the health and welfare of the growing urban populations of unskilled workers and immigrants who moved to the cities for jobs in factories; and the growing concern for the conservation of the country's natural resources, whose limits were beginning to be realized. In this era of transition, the Midwest, Indiana, and Indianapolis were not exempt from these challenges. Indianapolis as the State Capitol, as the largest city in the state, and as a growing urban center located on the east-west and north-south crossroads of America, led the state in addressing these challenges. The nominated Park and Boulevard Plan is the city's response. The Indianapolis Park and Boulevard Plan of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, is significant as a city plan whose foundation was the existing natural features of the area, and whose visionary design, by a nationally known landscape architect, transformed open space, vegetation, water, and roadways into multifunctional resources designed to improve the quality of life of the citizens. The plan merges art and engineering into a comprehensive plan that is still being used today.

## Plan Development

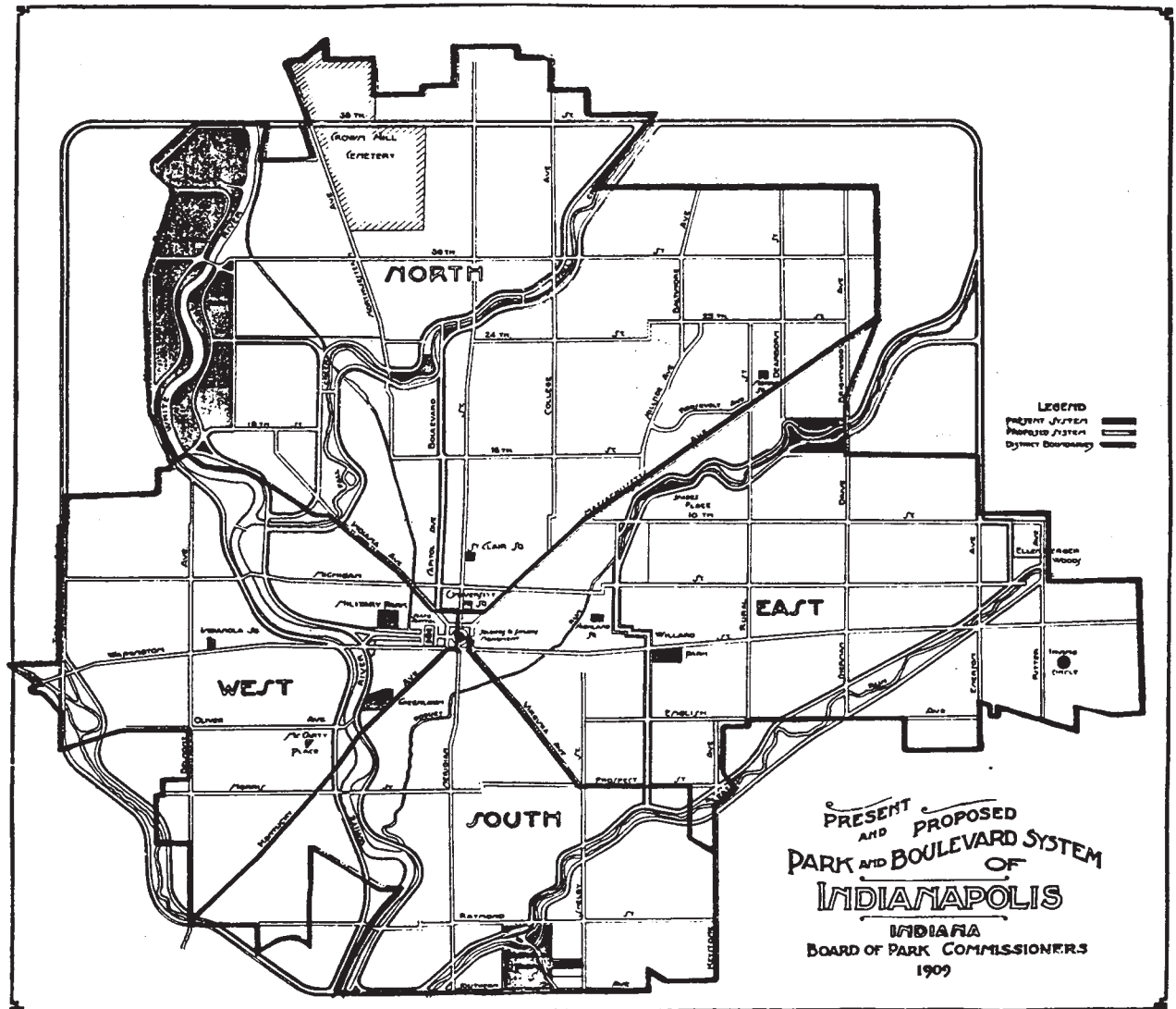
The Indianapolis Park and Boulevard Plan resulted from a combination of early park planning efforts (1873-1907), the visionary system plan of nationally known Landscape Architect George Kessler (1908-1923), and the later improvements that continued his plan or expanded it to the county limits (1924-fifty years ago). It unites individual parks and curvilinear green spaces with an array of east-west and north-south boulevards to link the city in a network of transportation and recreation corridors that also function to guide urban growth, conserve the natural environment, limit water pollution, and provide flood control. Overall, this urban plan improves the quality of life of its residents, fosters economic growth, equates Indianapolis with other world-class cities, and preserves the natural environment for sustained, long-term growth and development of the city and region.



### A Master of Landscape Architecture

The visionary system combined components of parks, parkways and boulevards into the first comprehensive urban plan for Indianapolis. Landscape Architect George E. Kessler designed the master plan in 1909, with some alterations in the following years. Kessler unexpectedly died in 1923, and landscape architect, Lawrence Sheridan, expanded the plan to the county limits. The plan is one of eighteen park and boulevard plans that Kessler designed for cities across the United States. It is also one of two-hundred thirty known projects attributed to his one-man office. It is



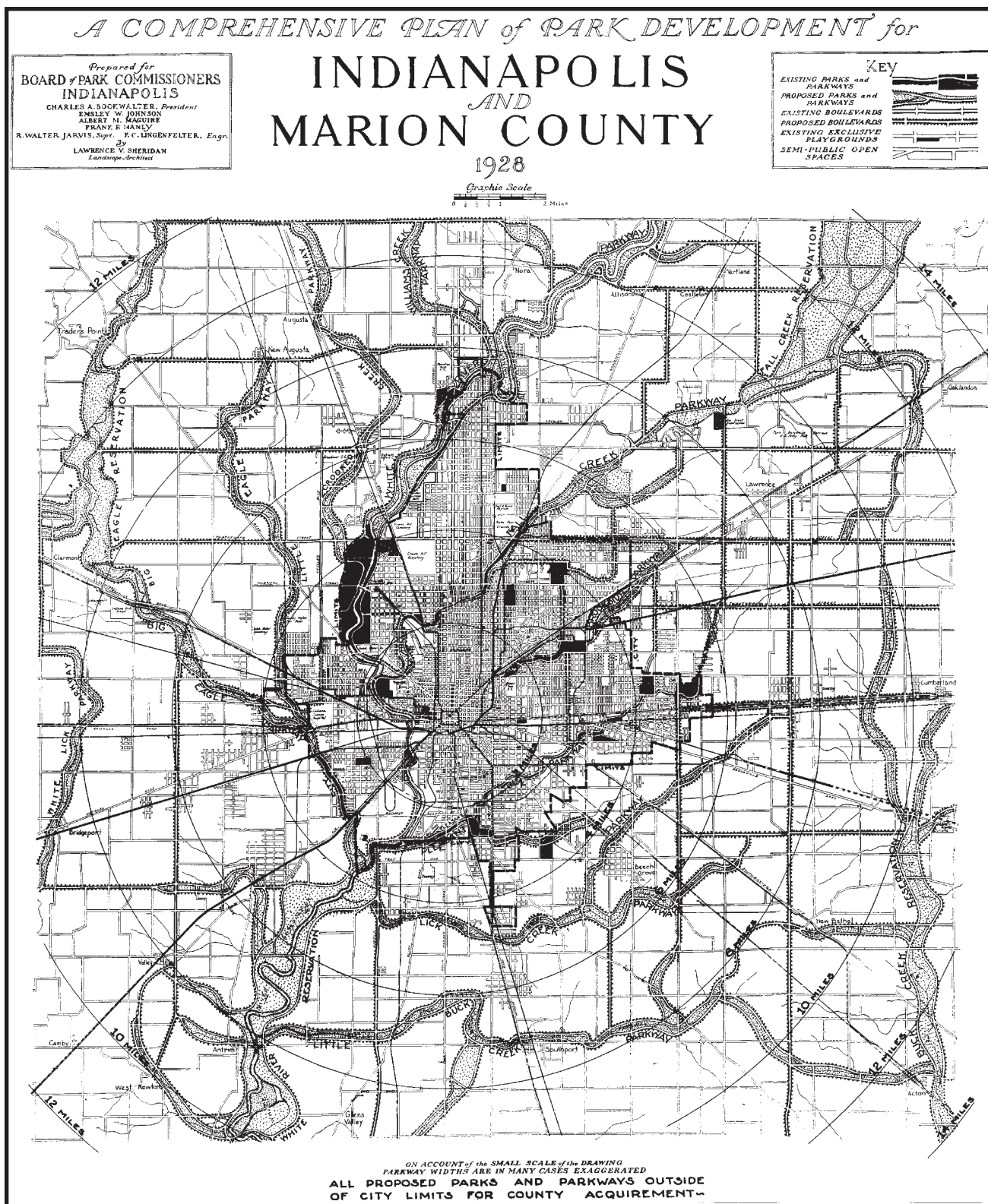


the first Kessler park and boulevard system in Indiana and was subsequently followed by plans for South Bend, Fort Wayne and Terre Haute, Indiana. Kessler was a part of the second generation of landscape architects practicing in the United States, following the early pioneers of the profession; Frederick Law Olmsted, H. W. S. Cleveland and Jacob Weidenman. His design work was not a response to the City Beautiful Movement, but rather his own interpretation of the importance of melding classic design and formality with natural resources to improve the quality of life of his constituents.

The plan is significant as a planned urban system, because it uses the classical German city planning tenets to organize the circulation system to accommodate all forms of transportation, from the central downtown business core of the city to the outlying

regions, thus laying the foundation for future growth in the city. The conservation of the natural resources of the city and the health of the constituents were the main priorities and the basis of the system. The plan uses engineered structures, such as bridges, seawalls, dams and levees to control flooding, which in turn contributed to the health of both the residents and the environment. The health of the citizens was also a component of the plan, where open space, natural vegetation, playgrounds, playfields, wading pools, and strolling paths provided recreation and social opportunities.

To Germans, city planning was a “fine art and a technical science,”<sup>1</sup> planned with deliberate and conscious determination. Kessler skillfully manipulated the resources to serve many functions at one time. Open spaces are more than just green; roads are more



than automobile thoroughfares; and water is more than a natural feature. In so doing, the engineered function of a resource was always overlain with an artful hand that used quality of life in human context as the key design criteria.

Kessler is often overshadowed by the work of the Olmstedes, however his talent and designed plans are located throughout the country. An example of his talent is the park and boulevard system located in Indianapolis. The parkways, more than any other property type in this nomination, are a complete synthesis of engineering and art. They merged the City Beautiful tenets of design with the City Practical, where function and beauty were equally considered. Intricate Beaux Arts details on built structures, added art to functionality, solidifying the unity between classic design and modern technology within the natural setting of Indianapolis.

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

### National Park Service Criterion A:

- A: The plan is significant in Community planning and development because it is a physical manifestation of the American ideal.
- A: The plan is significant in Community planning and development because it is the first comprehensive urban plan for Indianapolis.
- A: The plan is significant in Conservation because it is an example of a turn of the century response to a trend to protect the natural environment.
- A: The plan is significant in Health/medicine and Social History because it is an example of a response to a trend for government to provide public recreation facilities, open space, and clean water as a means to improving the health of the citizens.

### National Park Service Criterion C:

- C: The plan is significant in Community planning and development because it is an example of comprehensive German town planning.
- C: The plan is significant in Transportation because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of system (German).
- C: The plan is significant in Engineering because it illustrates turn of the century flood control measures, and construction techniques (bridges, road layout).
- C: The plan is significant in Entertainment/

recreation because it is an example of recreation planning at the turn of century.

- C: The plan is significant in Landscape Architecture because it is the work of a master.
- C: The plan is significant in Landscape Architecture because it has high artistic value.

## (Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> The German Way of Making Better Cities, Sylvester Baxter, Atlantic Monthly, 104, July 1909: 72-95"

As can be learned from the above documentation, Indianapolis Department of Parks is the steward of a cultural treasure. Few single nominations in the nation have encompassed so many acres (3400+), arrayed over such a large expanse of a City. The system as defined by the National park Service includes parks, boulevards and parways as well as contributing features such as bridges, landscapes and other built features.

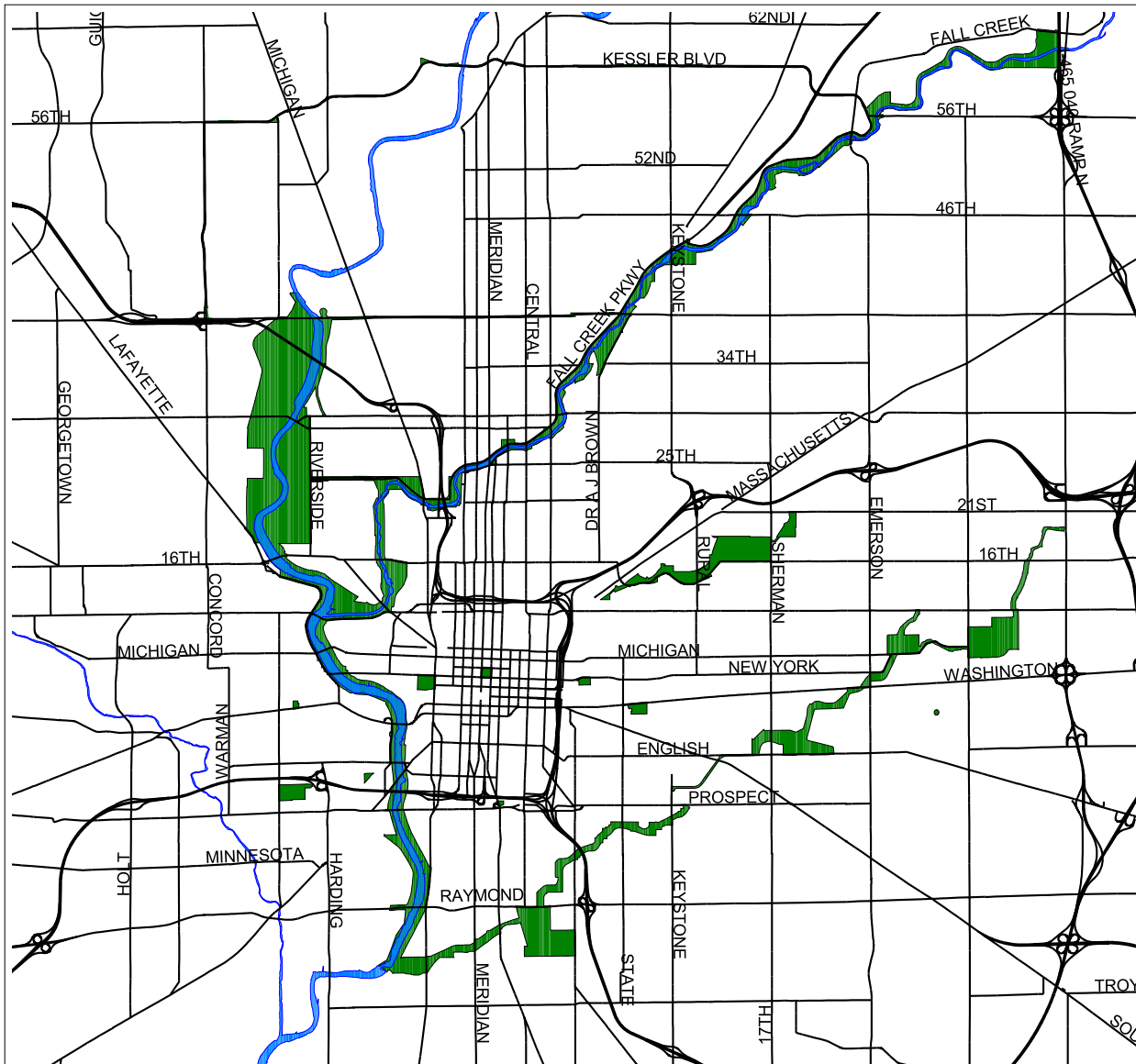
The placement of this system on the National Register in 2003 raised the profile of this resource in the eyes of City, State and National leaders, Department staff and the public. The question leaders face now regards how to celebrate the resource we have; through continuing and improving its maintenance, restoring where appropriate its intended character and design and educating the public about the designed landscape that we live in and benefit from daily.





## 2003 Indianapolis Parks and Boulevard System

Placed on National Historic Register



Major Streets  
 1 - 35  
 36 - 45  
 46 - 65  
 Rivers  
 Kessler\_ska.shp

1 0 1 Miles

February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
 Geographic Information Systems



## CONNECTIONS

### History of the Connections

The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis provides a comprehensive overview of transportation in Marion County, including information on the development of the railroad, the Interurban system, riverine and vehicular transportation. The focus of this history is related to the park system and concerns the development of the Parkway and Boulevard System. The following text is taken from the Encyclopedia of Indianapolis and was written by Glory-June Greif. Text written by the park planners is located in brackets [ ].

In part a response to the “City Beautiful” ideal popularized by the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Indianapolis initiated a number of expansions and improvements in its city parks around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With the idea of reserved greenspace came the notion of attractive thoroughfares, usually winding alongside streams, connecting various points within the town. The thoroughfares were intended to be largely recreational, providing pleasant drives around the city with occasional benches and suitable picnic spots provided.

The prospect of a boulevard following Fall Creek from Capitol Avenue to the then-new Indiana State Fairgrounds on Maple Road (38<sup>th</sup> Street) arose as early as 1901 in discussions of the Indianapolis Board of Park Commissioners, itself only in its seventh year. By 1906 Fall Creek Boulevard was completed between Capitol and Central Avenue, as was most of a section of Pleasant Run Boulevard (later Parkway) between Raymond and Beecher streets. Other boulevards in progress were along the levee on the east bank of White River north of Michigan Street, and another northward through Riverside Park from the stone dam (still extant), near where the Emrichsville Bridge had recently been built, to 30<sup>th</sup> Street. From the beginning Indianapolis planned parks for its boulevards. City engineers did not lose sight of this link in succeeding decades, thereby seeking and ultimately achieving, to a degree, a true system of wide parkways with broader intermittent expanses like green beads on a cord.

The original park-boulevard plan was the work of George Kessler, a landscape architect hired by the park board. . . . The construction of Fort Benjamin

Harrison in 1906 brought a proposal from the federal government to build a boulevard connecting the army post with the city. The park board suggested it could easily be an extension of Fall Creek Boulevard. Ultimately, the plan came to fruition in the 1930s, when workers of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and Works Progress Administration fulfilled the dreams of the early park planner and completed lengthy stretches of Fall Creek Parkway, Pleasant Run Parkway, Riverside Parkway, and Kessler Boulevard.

[The following map illustrates Kessler’s Parkway and Boulevard System. Note that in addition to the Parkways along Pleasant Run, Pogue’s Run, Fall Creek, White River, and Eagle Creek; north-south and east-west connections include 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Emerson, Keystone and Capitol Avenues, Meridian Street, and Kessler Boulevard, North Drive.]

### Indianapolis Greenways

[Today’s Indianapolis Greenway system is based on a nearly 100-year old plan by renowned landscape architect, George Kessler. Kessler’s 1909 Park and Boulevard Plan for Indianapolis made specific plans for a boulevard and trail system along Indianapolis’ waterways. Determined by the physical features of the city, Kessler proposed a chain of continuous parks that would extend to every neighborhood of the city. By acquiring open spaces adjacent to boulevards, the city could create a series of small neighborhood parks and playgrounds for the entire community. Another key aspect of Kessler’s plan was the preservation of low-lying areas near streams and rivers to protect natural floodways. Kessler argued for reserving land along the city’s rivers and streams for parks and using tree-lined boulevards to connect the parks. The result of this plan would be a parkway system that would greatly benefit the city.

In 1928, Lawrence V. Sheridan, a landscape architect for the City of Indianapolis, expanded the Kessler Plan to the county boundary and included tributaries like Little Buck Creek, Little Eagle Creek and Lick Creek into the plan, which were also included in the 1982 Indianapolis Parkway System Plan. Today, Kessler’s and Sheridan’s legacy of identifying and preserving linear parcels of parkland for pathways and open space is being recognized as enhancing the quality of life in Indianapolis.

# Cultural Legacy

## Greenway Development Board

In 1990, the Indianapolis City-County Council created the White River Greenway Task Force. The council charged the task force with “the mission of researching governmental jurisdictions affecting the river; considering carefully the river’s importance in such areas as recreation, homes, general aesthetics, wildlife, trees, flora, businesses, drainage, agriculture, bridges, the edges of the river and quarries; and concluding with a practical, imaginative, and consensus plan for the future improvement of White River and its banks for the benefit of the people of this city.”

A year later, the council established the task force as a permanent committee and made it responsible for “implementing the strategic plan for the White River linear park/greenway corridor and [its] operation and maintenance.” In 1991, the Mayor and City-County Council created the White River Greenway Development Board by special resolution to continue these efforts. The board, in conjunction with the White River Greenway Foundation, Inc. (WRGFI) (a not-for-profit funding source), organized events such as a riverbank clean-up project which removed over 700 tons of trash, involved thousands of volunteers and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the greenway cause. In January 1994, the board recommended it be reconstituted as the Indianapolis Metropolitan Greenways Commission to reflect the regional interest in the greenway movement and to recommend and support the implementation of the 1994 Indianapolis Greenways Plan. In 1995 this commission evolved further when the Indianapolis City-County Council, by general ordinance, established the Indianapolis Greenways Development Committee. The designated purpose of the Committee is to advise the Board of the Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation and to encourage use, preservation and improvement of the Indianapolis Greenways with regard to present and future operations, development, recreation and its natural environment.

## Indianapolis Greenways Mission:

- Provide opportunities for recreation and fitness trail activities.
- Protect important wildlife habitat and promote the conservation of open space, forests and wetland areas.
- Link Indianapolis neighborhoods with each other and with parks and other community assets.

- Educate the public about the importance of the natural environment of the Greenways System.
- Become an economic asset to the community by promoting economic development and by making Indianapolis a desirable place where new businesses can locate.
- Redevelop and manage the Marion County Bicycle Routes as part of the Indianapolis Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which will connect the Greenways and Parks System to communities within the Regional Plan

Although the Kessler plan is nearly 100 years old, the first modern bike and pedestrian trail was constructed in 1995 along a portion of Fall Creek and the system has grown to 40.7 miles with over 150 miles planned. The existing 40.7-mile system consists of an old rail corridor, a historic 170-year-old canal, and numerous trails following some of the rivers and streams throughout the county. The Indianapolis Greenways system is intended to interconnect parks, neighborhoods, schools, libraries, and other areas of interest within Marion County.

This linear park system has the potential to reach more communities acre for acre than the entire neighborhood and community parks system combined. Greenways also provide self-directed recreation, such as hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling and in-line skating. Providing a multitude of activities, greenways also integrate communities, including amenities offered within the Indy Park System.

## Greenway Trail construction by year:

### 1995

Fall Creek Greenway (Keystone to 56<sup>th</sup> Street)

### 1996

Monon Rail-Trail (86<sup>th</sup> Street to Broad Ripple Ave.)

### 1997

Fall Creek Greenway (Central to Delaware Street)

Central Canal Towpath(52<sup>nd</sup> Street to College Avenue)

White River Greenway (16<sup>th</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup> Street)

Monon Rail-Trail (86<sup>th</sup> to 98<sup>th</sup> Street)

### 1998

Monon Rail-Trail (Broad Ripple Ave to Fall Creek)

Pleasant Run Greenway(Garfield to Ellenberger Park)



Central Canal (52<sup>nd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Street)

**1999**

White River Greenway (16<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Street)

**2001**

Little Buck Creek (Sonesta and Buck Creek Village)

**2002**

Fall Creek Greenway(Delaware to Meridian Street)

**2003**

Fall Creek Greenway(Monon to Keystone Avenue)

Monon Rail-Trail(Fall Creek to 10<sup>th</sup> Street)

Little Buck Creek (Bayberry Village)

Eagle Creek Greenway (Kentucky Ave. to White River)]

## Township Connectivity Plans

[In an effort to continue the successes of the Indy Parks Greenways development, planning staff have undertaken to draft Connectivity Plans for two of Marion County's 9 townships to date (Pike and Franklin). These plans are a continuation of the Greenways system, at a finer scale. While the Greenways Master Plan focuses on 16 corridors, the Connectivity Plans include lesser connections within the community.

Using a combination of Department of Metropolitan Development and Department of Public Works planned roadwork, existing and planned greenways, high tension line corridors, rail corridors and street-side projects, these plans knit communities together. Destinations include residential areas, parks, schools, commercial centers, libraries, post offices and other institutions.

By focusing on one Township at a time, and through a series of public meetings, knowledge is passed from residents to staff to develop the best connections within neighborhoods. These plans are used by city planners, developers, and neighborhood advocates to continue to piece together small connections, each a step toward a more pedestrian friendly city and a healthier and happier lifestyle.]







Holiday Park



# Demographic Profiles

## Demographics

The following demographic maps show the growth and diversity of the population as it relates to recreational user factors. Those factors are: population density, age, race, size of household, household income, home ownership, and mobility impairment. Data from the 2000 Census was used to create the following maps:



## Maps

### 10 Year Population Change

Change by Tract

### Overall Population Density

Persons per Acre

### Home Ownership

Renter Occupied Households

### Size of Household

1 to 2 Persons per Household

3 to 5 Persons per Household

6 or More Persons per Household

### Household Income

Household Income by Tract

### Minority Population

% Asian Population

% Black Population

% Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Population

% Hispanic Population

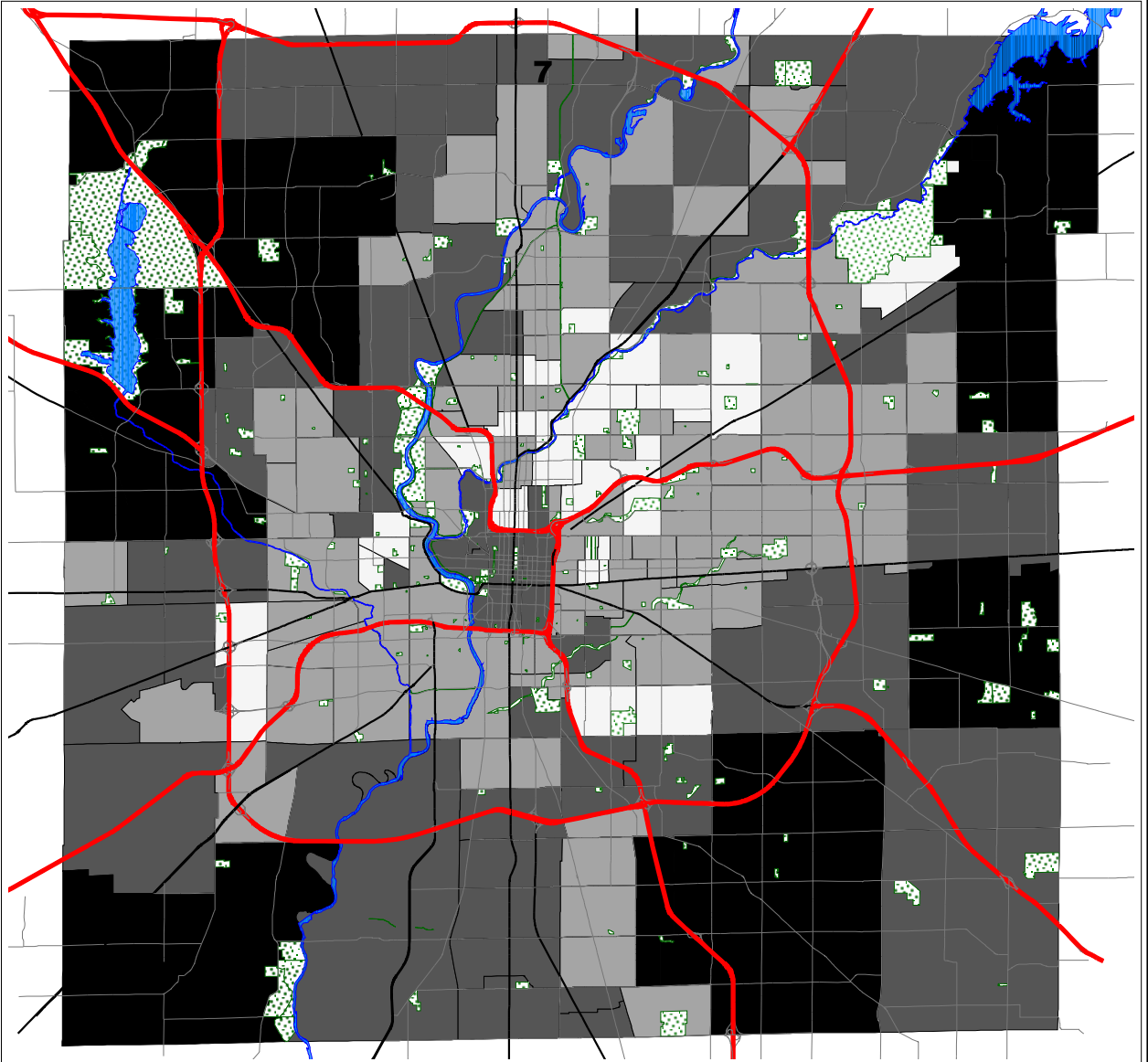
% White Population

% Other Population

Maps related to populations with disabilities are included in the Universal Access section.



## Population Change Over the Last 10 Years Population by Tract Marion County, Indiana



- Major Streets
- Interstates
- Major Thoroughfares
- Primary Arterial Streets
- Rivers
- Parks
- Population Change
- 1336 - -500
- 499 - 0
- 1 - 1500
- 1501 - 15674

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

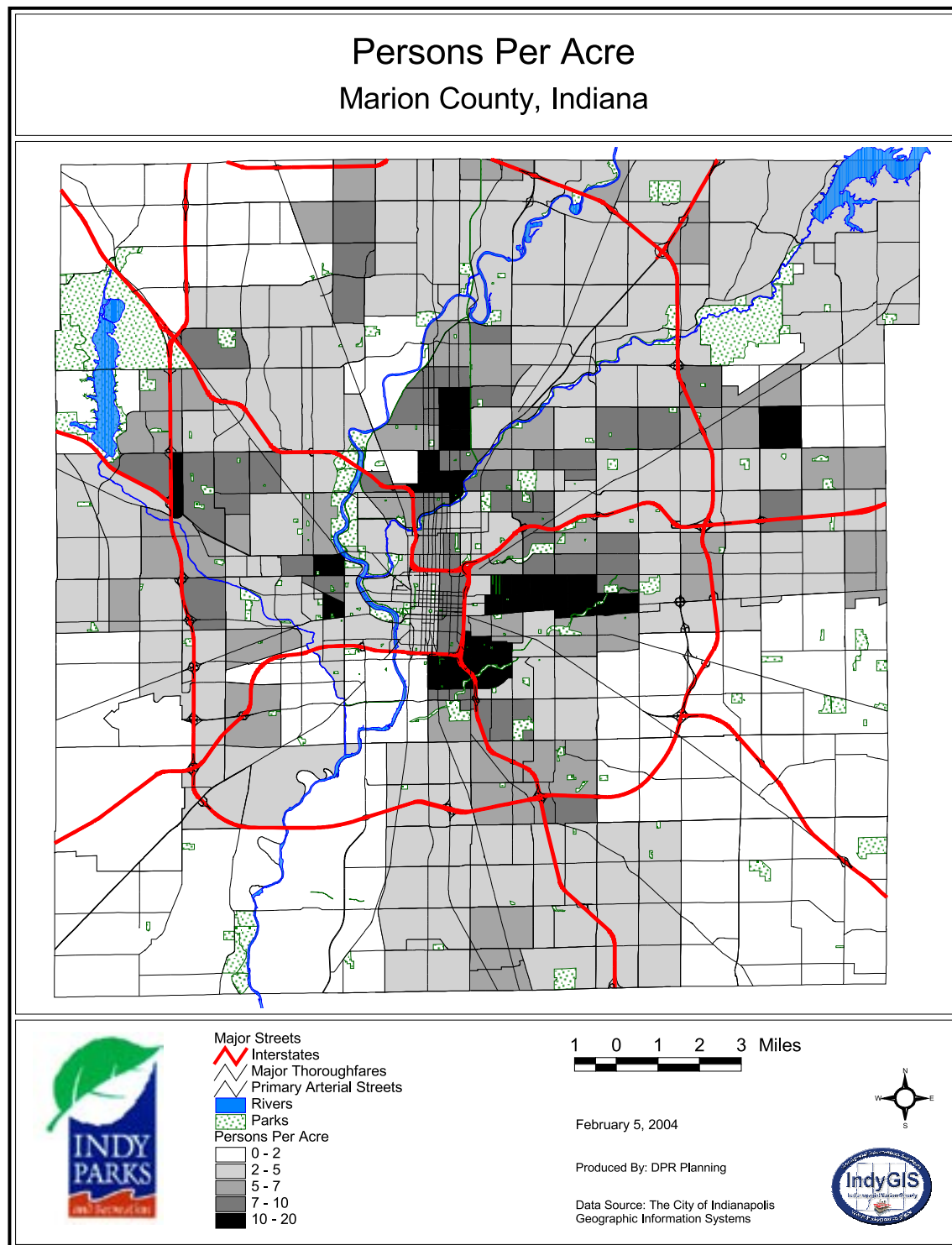
February 5, 2004

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Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



# Demographic Profiles

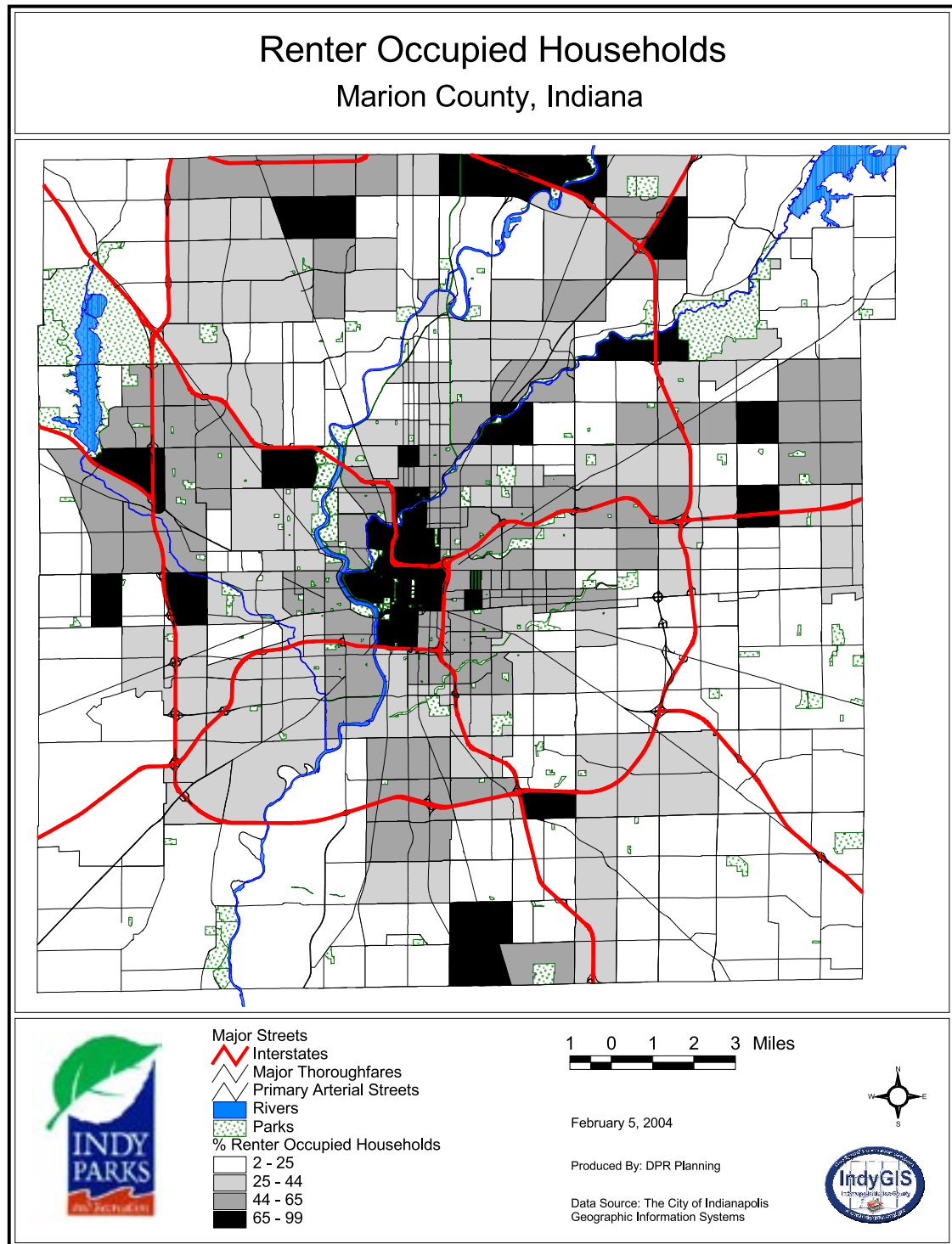


## Persons Per Acre

The above map illustrates the general density of Marion County. It is obvious and expected that some of the densest census tracts are in Center Township. The lack of density in Decatur and Franklin Townships is also readily apparent. While these townships show a lower density as of the 2000 Census, it should be

noted that these two townships have experienced and continue to experience rapid residential development. The development in these areas can be attributed to a few factors. One being the relatively cheap cost of land when compared to other parts of the county. Another reason being the slow migration of people toward the communities such as Mooresville and New Palestine.



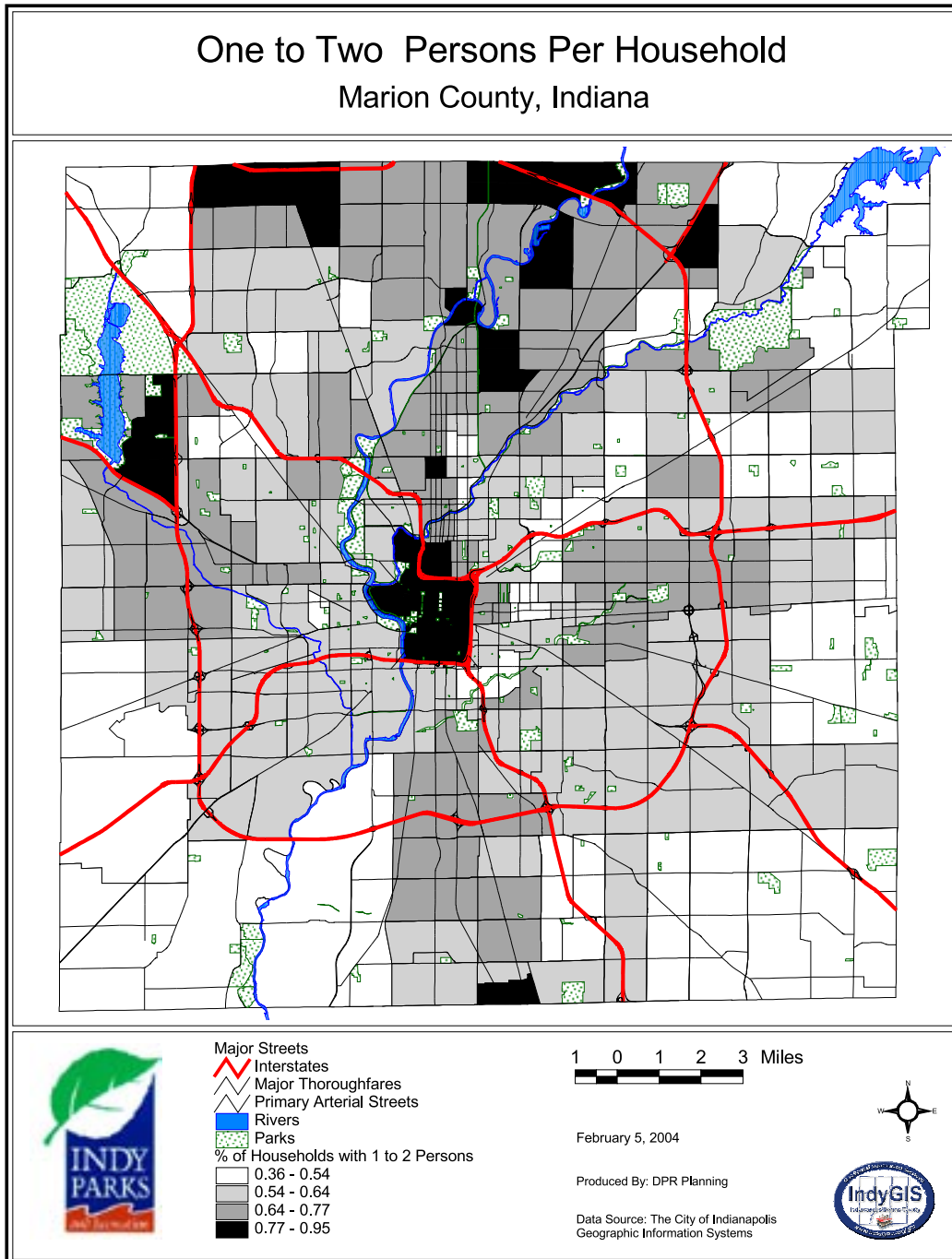


### Renter Occupied Households

From the above map, one can easily see that the Renter Occupied tracts show a similar pattern of Density. Many of these apartment communities are in the denser urban fabric or adjacent to a busy interstate. In either case, the quality not just the quantity of available open space is an important question. Having parks and open space within

walking distance and with easy access is paramount for the children that grow up in these communities. Within the city center, the availability of sidewalks allows for fairly good access to parks in the area. However, in many of the neighborhoods in the outer townships, sidewalks are few and far between, which makes even walking to a neighborhood park a challenge.

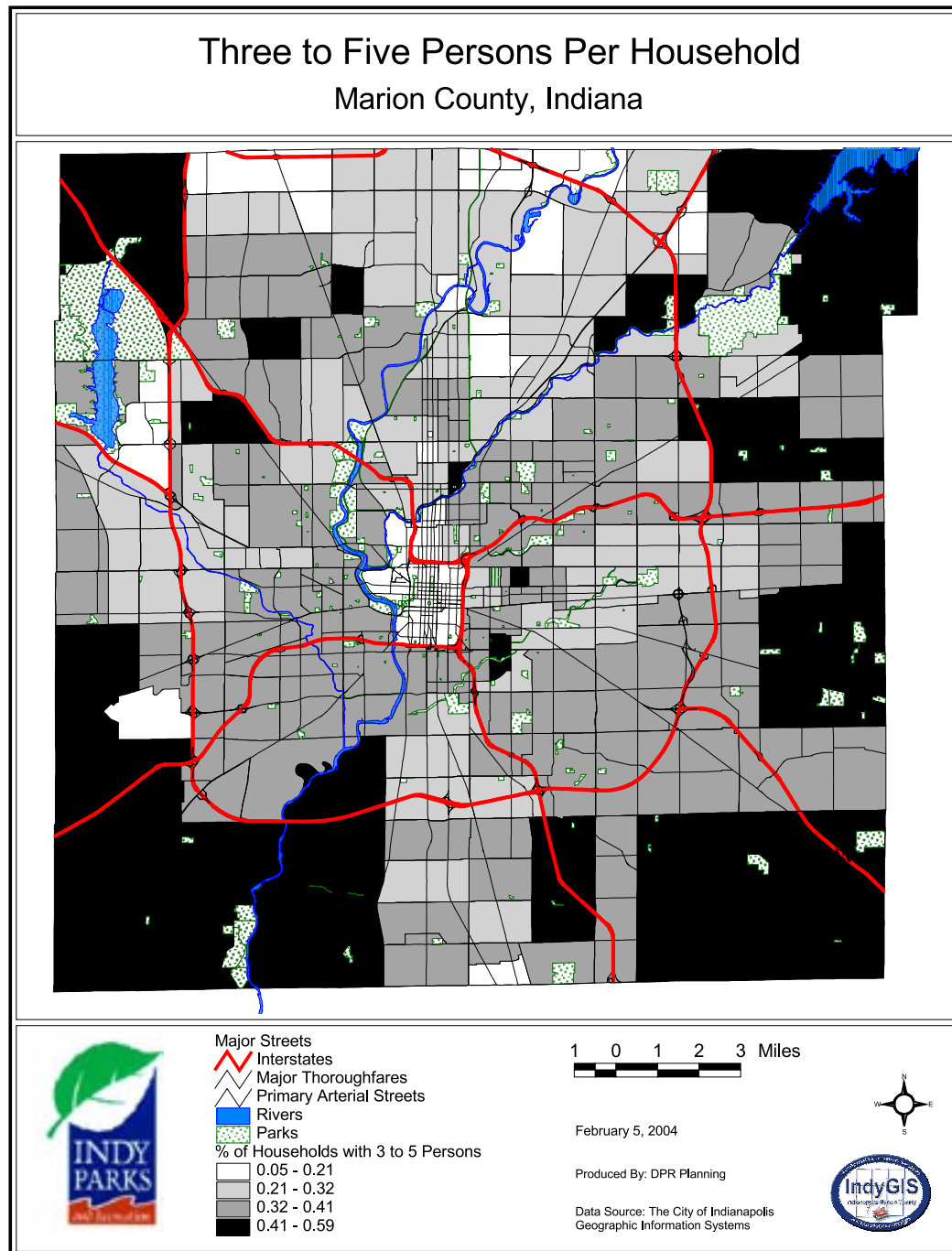
# Demographic Profiles



## One to Two People Per Household

There are some similarities with the Renter Occupied map from the previous page and although it is not clear whether these households are young professionals or older "empty-nesters," many of the same conclusions can be drawn. There is still a need for parks and open space. It is their choice of activity that will vary greatly with age and income. The most striking aspect of the above map is that in any one tract, over 36% of the households are occupied by only one or two people.

Another aspect that clearly stands out is that in some of the tracts, in Center Township and the northern edge of the county, over 77% of the households are occupied by only one or two people. Here again, when one looks at the number of rental units in these two areas, it can be assumed that these are occupied by a more transient population that does not have large lawns or ready access to green space.



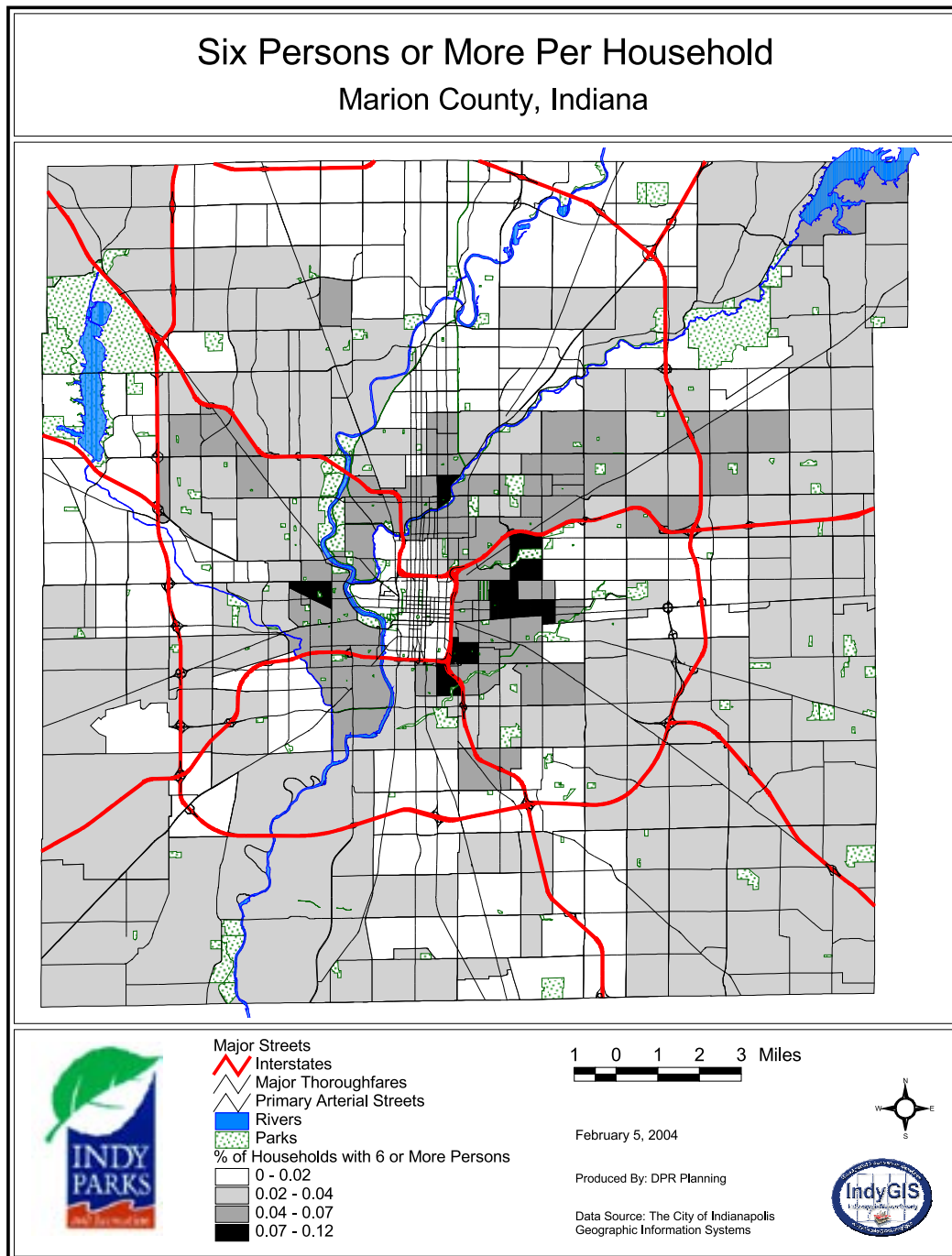
## Three to Five Persons per Household

When one compares the above map to the previous map, it would appear to be an almost perfect inverse image. Between 40% and 60% of the households in Decatur and Franklin Townships are occupied by 3 to 5 people. There is a noticeable pattern of these types of households on the very edge of the county. This might be characterized by the fact that some people want to live in a certain school district. It is apparent that there is a marked difference in the types of families

or households in Center Township and the rest of the county. These outer areas are also experiencing rapid development in the form of single family homes on small lots, many with little common property set-aside for open space or neighborhood parks.



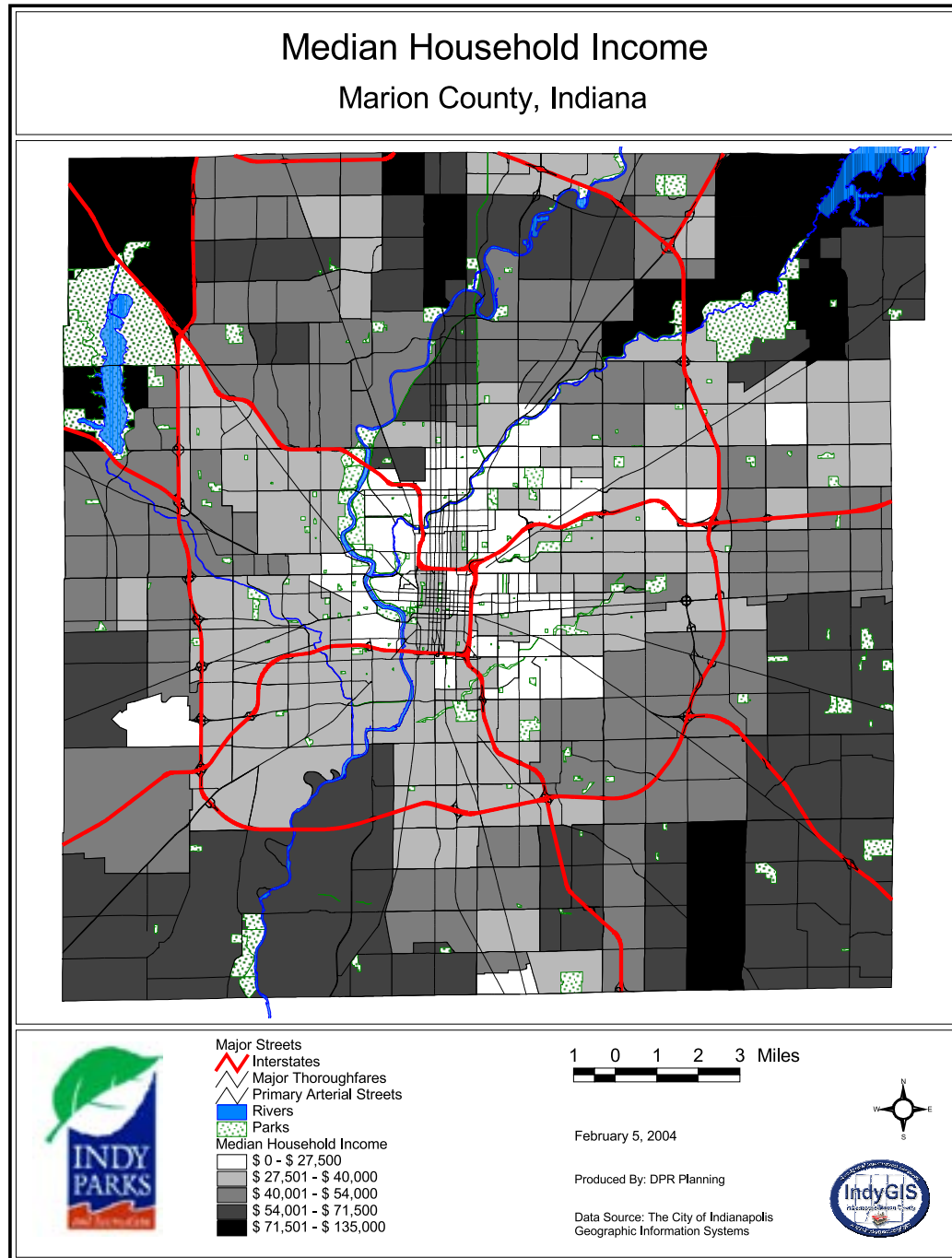
# Demographic Profiles



## Six Persons or More per Household

The above map illustrates the lack of large households throughout most of the county. There are a few tracts that have a higher number of families with 6 or more, mostly

located in Center Township. From this raw data, is unfair to draw too many conclusions about the family make-up of these households, but one could say that these larger families do require parkland within their community.



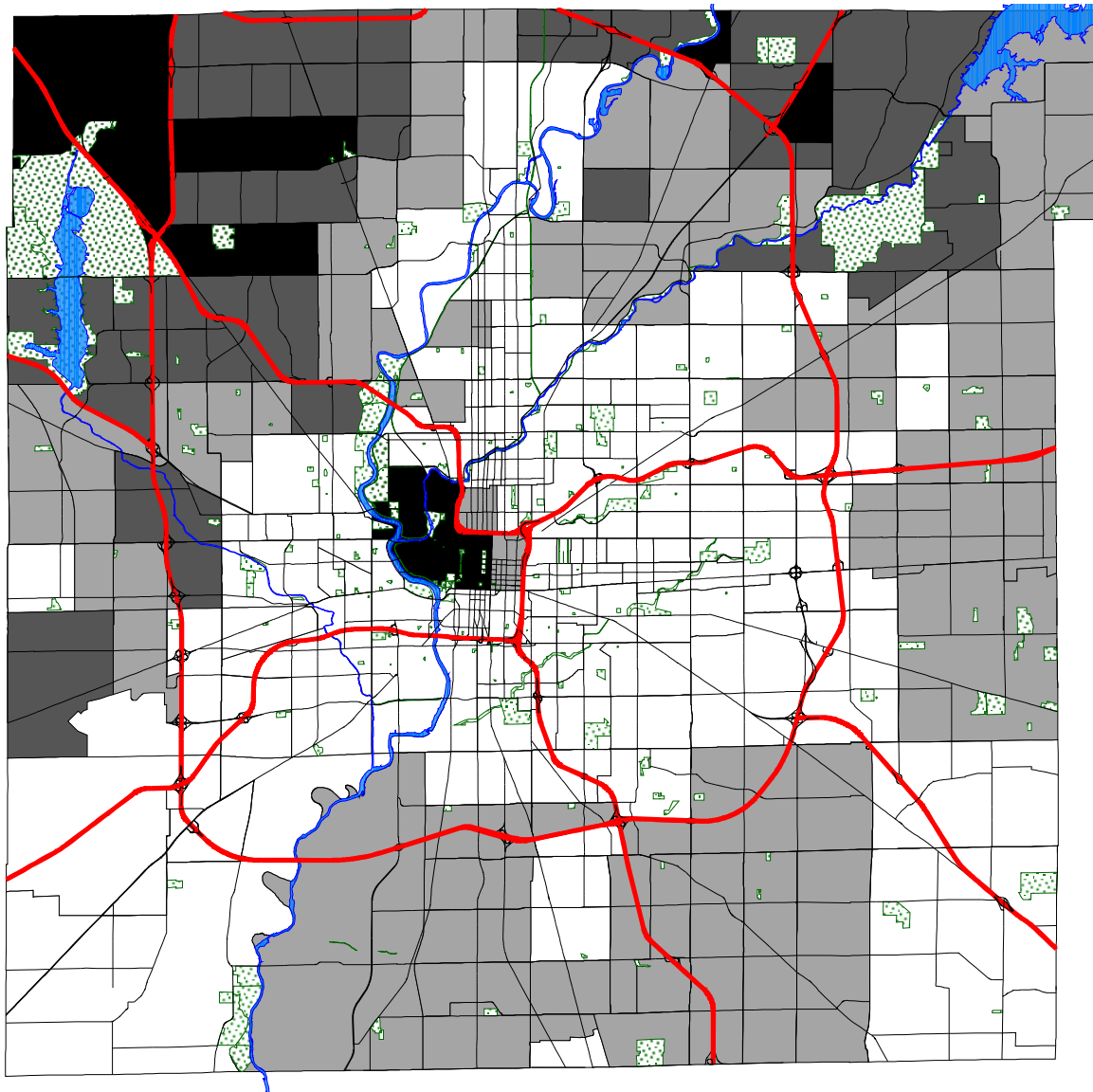
## Household Income

The map of Household Income in Indianapolis-Marion County clearly shows the distribution of wealth in Marion County to the outer edges of the county.

These areas also tend to be the same areas that are experiencing a great deal of growth in commercial development as well as housing. From this increase in homes comes an additional increase in the need for parkland.

# Demographic Profiles

## % Asian Population Marion County, Indiana



- Major Streets
- Interstates
  - Major Thoroughfares
  - Primary Arterial Streets
- Rivers
- Parks
- % Asian
- 0 - 0.9
  - 0.9 - 2.2
  - 2.2 - 3.8
  - 3.8 - 8

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

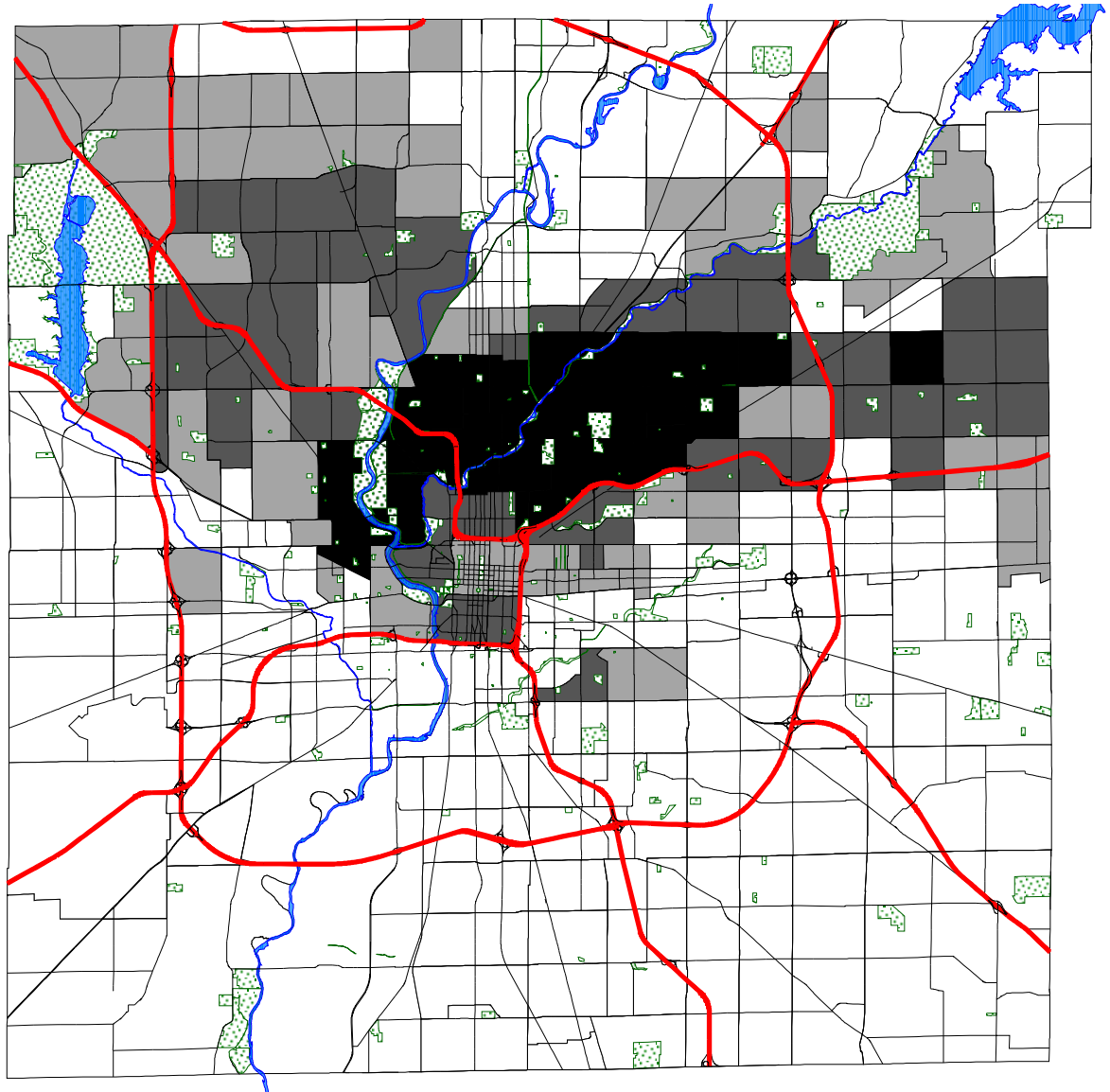
Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems





## % Black Population Marion County, Indiana



- Major Streets
- Interstates
  - Major Thoroughfares
  - Primary Arterial Streets
  - Rivers
  - Parks
- % Black
- 0.1 - 13.3
  - 13.3 - 34.4
  - 34.4 - 65.7
  - 65.7 - 97.8

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

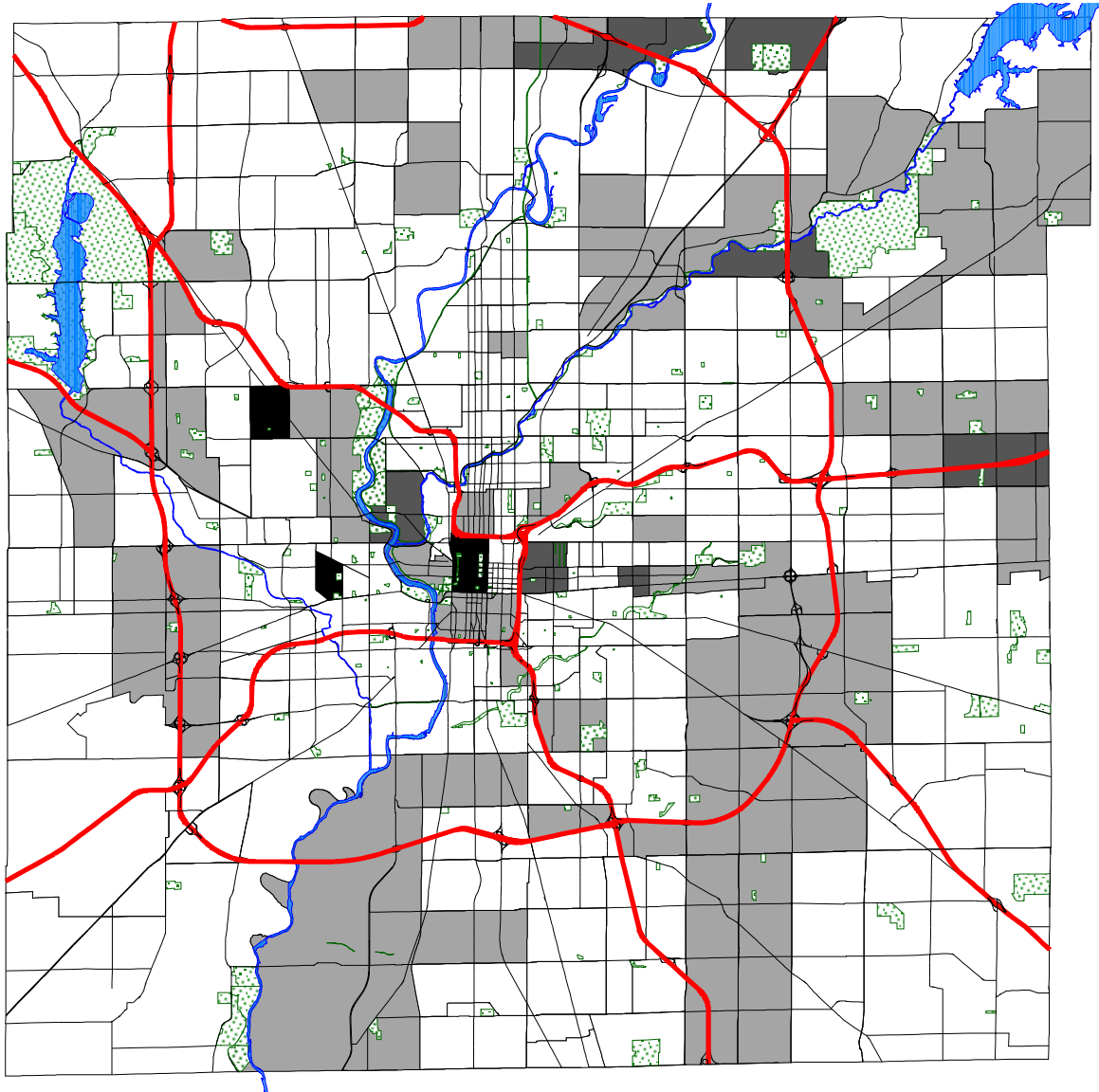
Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



# Demographic Profiles

## % Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Population Marion County, Indiana



- Major Streets  
Interstates  
Major Thoroughfares  
Primary Arterial Streets  
Rivers  
Parks  
% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander  
0  
0 - 0.1  
0.1 - 0.2  
0.2 - 0.3

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

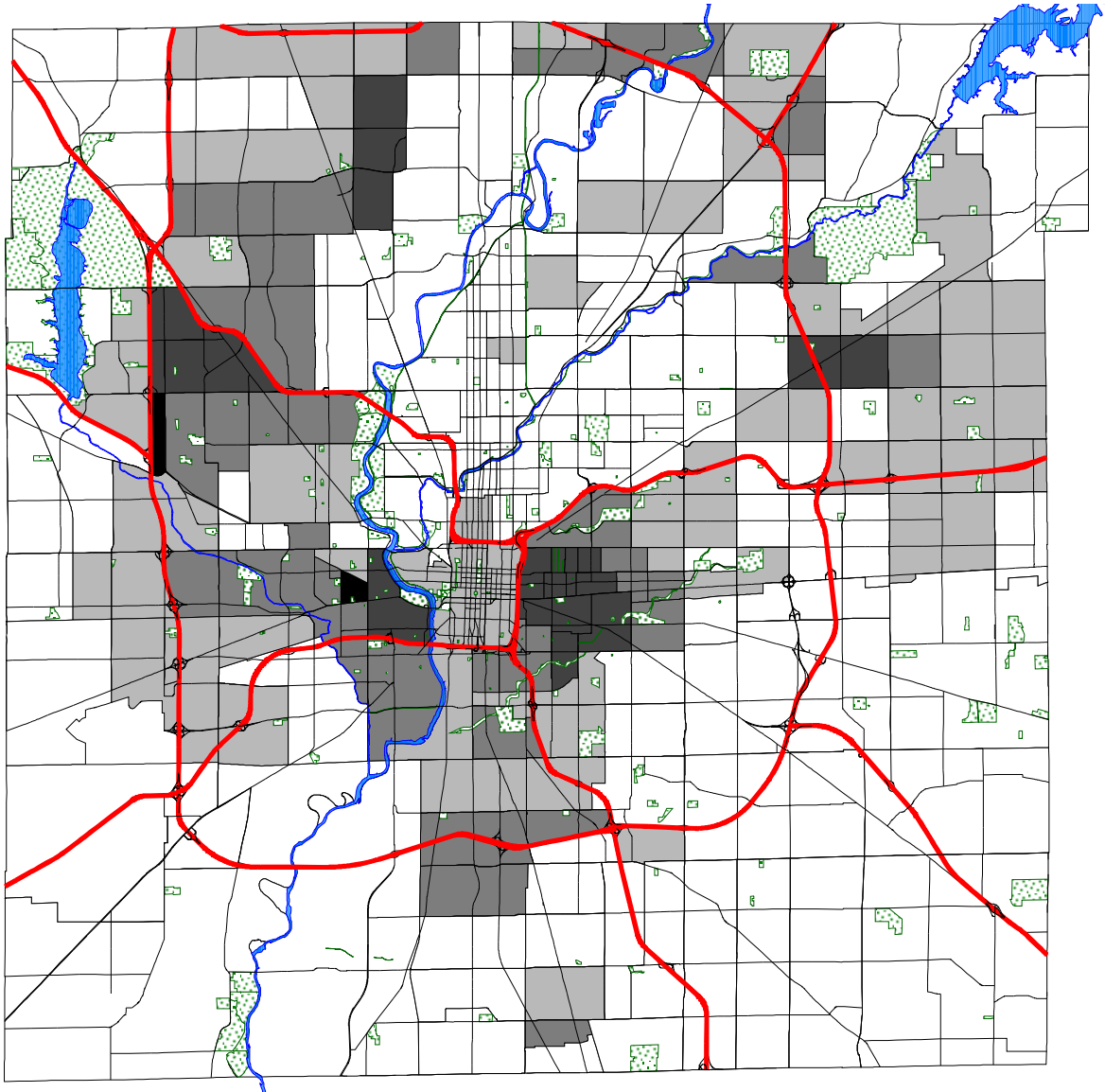
February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



## % Hispanic Population Marion County, Indiana



- Major Streets
- Interstates
- Major Thoroughfares
- Primary Arterial Streets
- Rivers
- Parks
- % Hispanic
  - 0 - 2.3
  - 2.3 - 5.1
  - 5.1 - 9.8
  - 9.8 - 17.8
  - 17.8 - 29.6

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

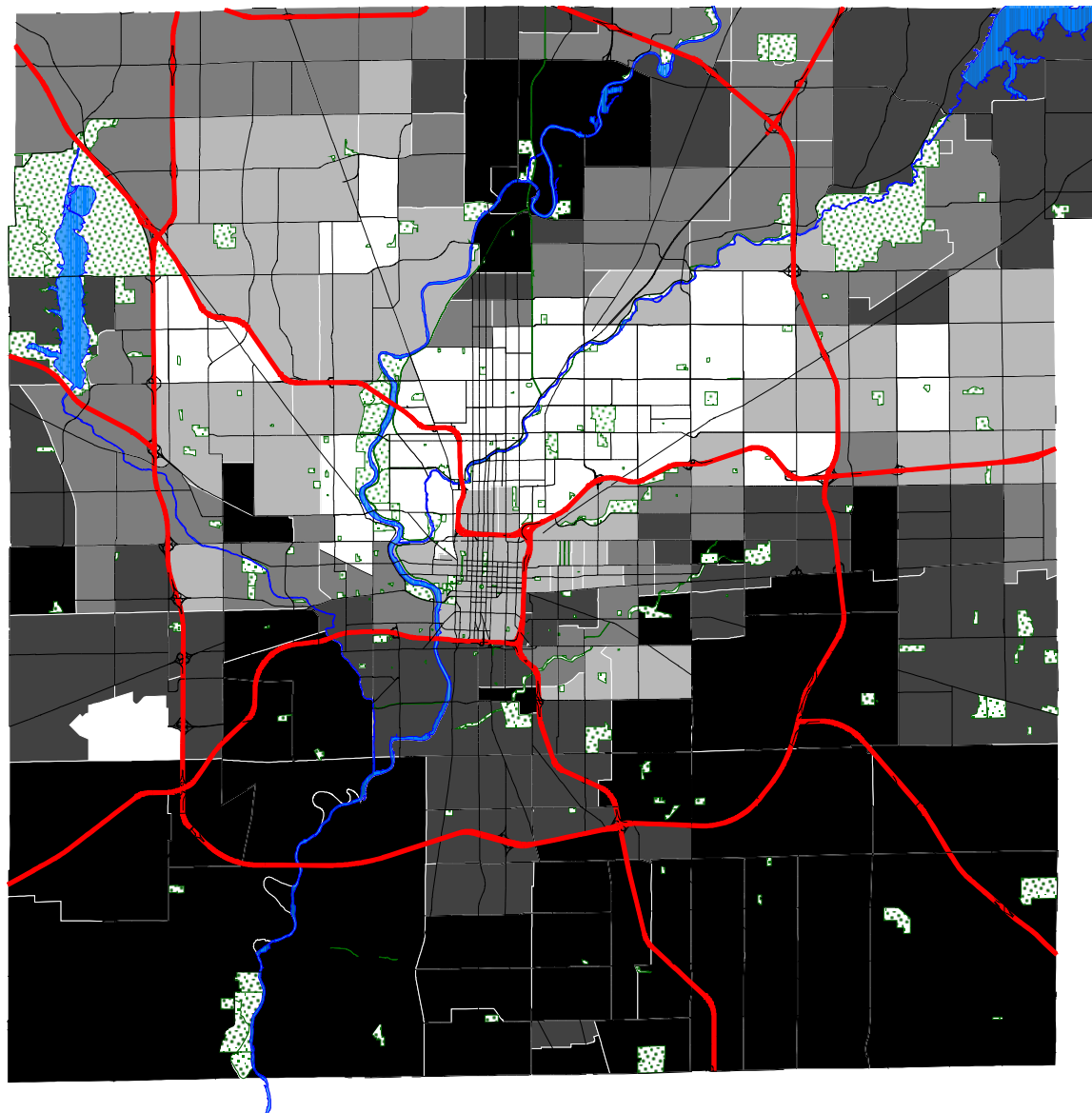
Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems





# Demographic Profiles

## % White Population Marion County, Indiana



- Major Streets
- Interstates
  - Major Thoroughfares
  - Primary Arterial Streets
  - Rivers
  - Parks
- % White
- 0.8 - 41.1
  - 41.1 - 68
  - 68 - 84.9
  - 84.9 - 93.7
  - 93.7 - 98.8

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

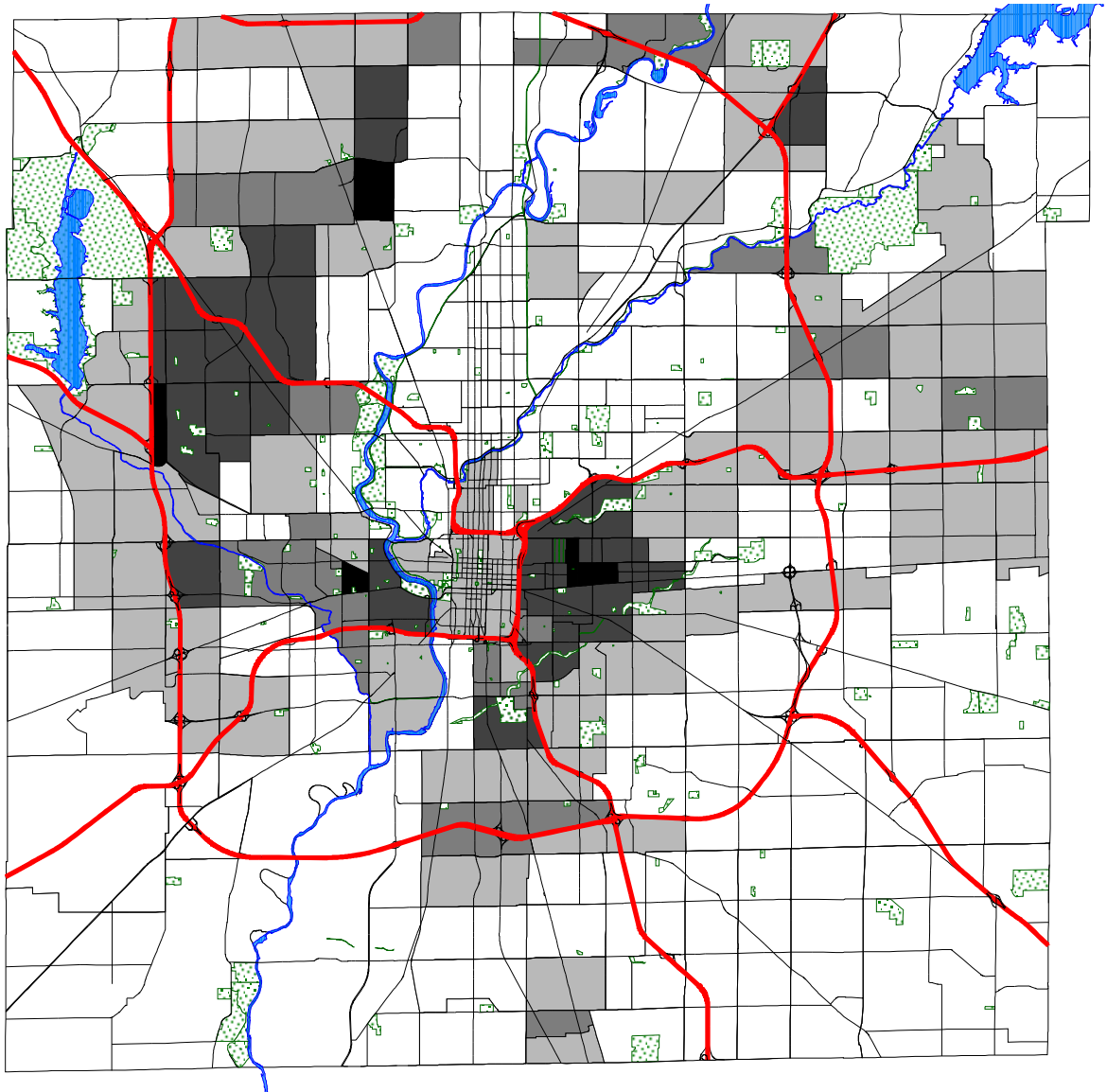
February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



## % Other Population Marion County, Indiana



- Major Streets
- Interstates
  - Major Thoroughfares
  - Primary Arterial Streets
  - Rivers
  - Parks
- % Other
- 0 - 1
  - 1 - 2.4
  - 2.4 - 4.5
  - 4.5 - 7.8
  - 7.8 - 17.3

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

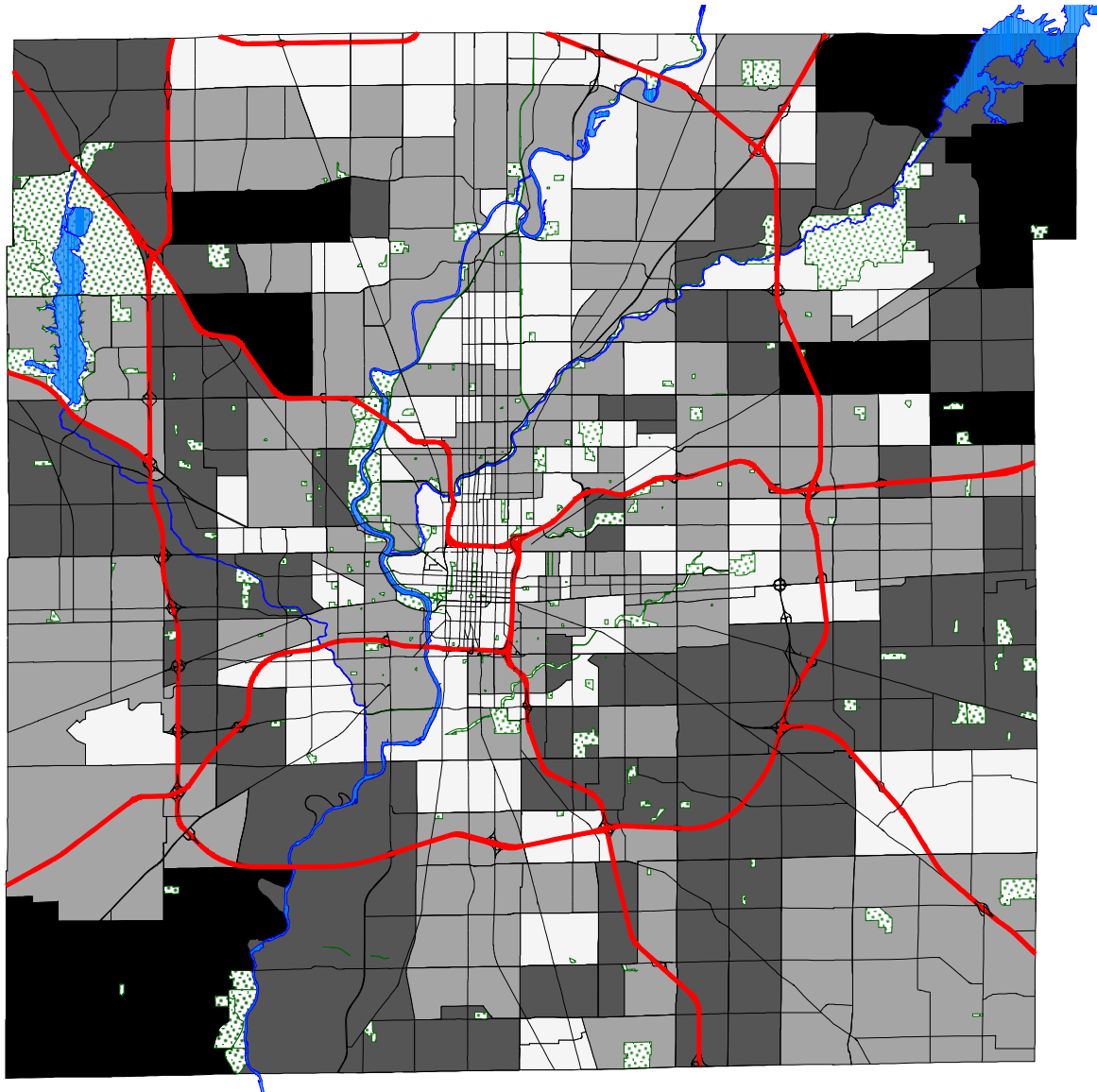
Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



# Demographic Profiles

## Age Distribution - Persons Under 17

Marion County, Indiana



Major Streets  
Interstates  
Major Thoroughfares  
Primary Arterial Streets  
Rivers  
Parks  
Persons Under 17  
0 - 721  
721 - 1336  
1336 - 2192  
2192 - 4522

1 0 1 2 3 Miles



February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

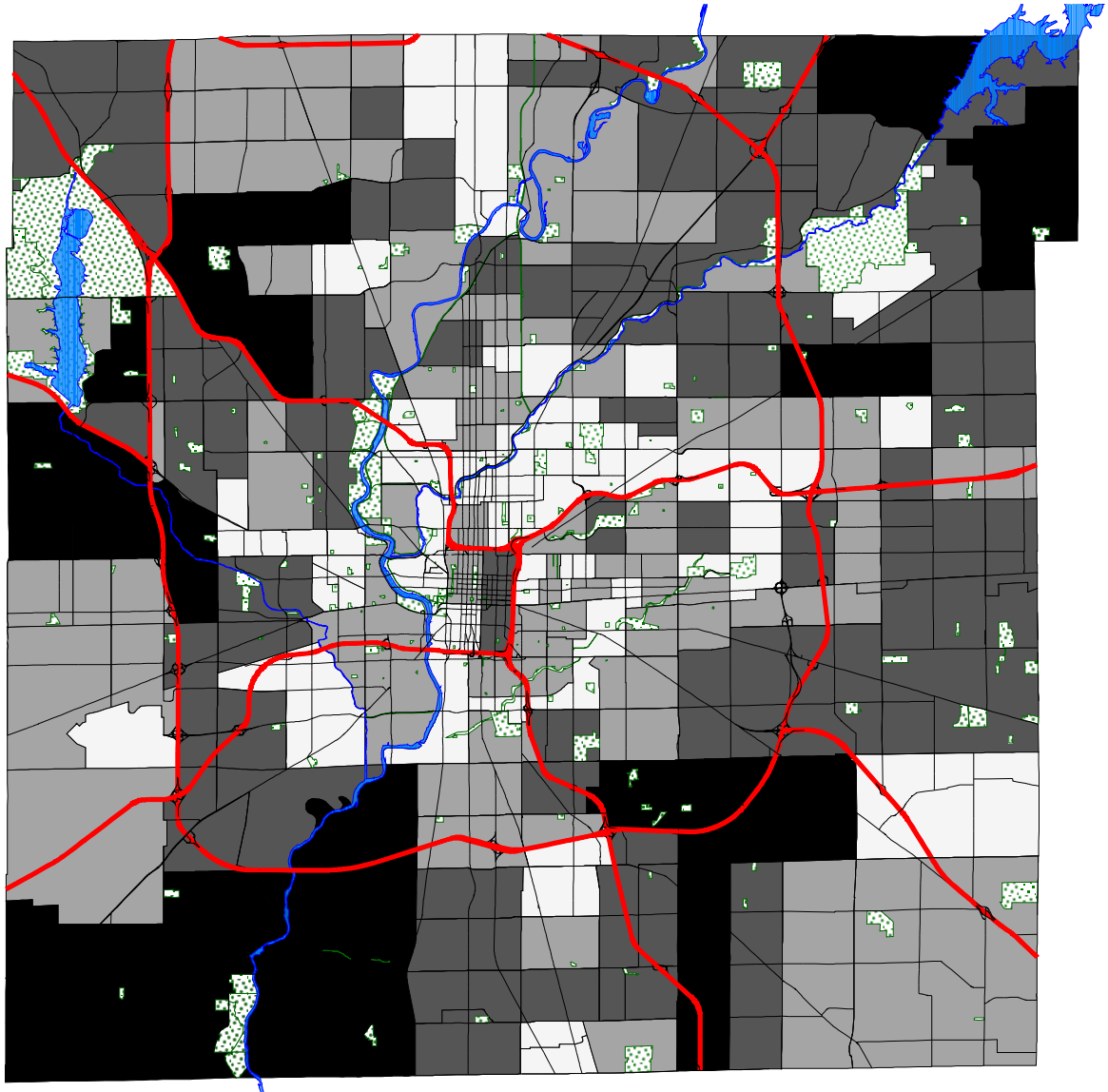
Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems





## Age Distribution - Persons 18-64

Marion County, Indiana



Major Streets  
 Interstates  
 Major Thoroughfares  
 Primary Arterial Streets  
 Rivers  
 Parks  
 Persons 18 to 64  
 0 - 1699  
 1699 - 2803  
 2803 - 4397  
 4397 - 8681

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

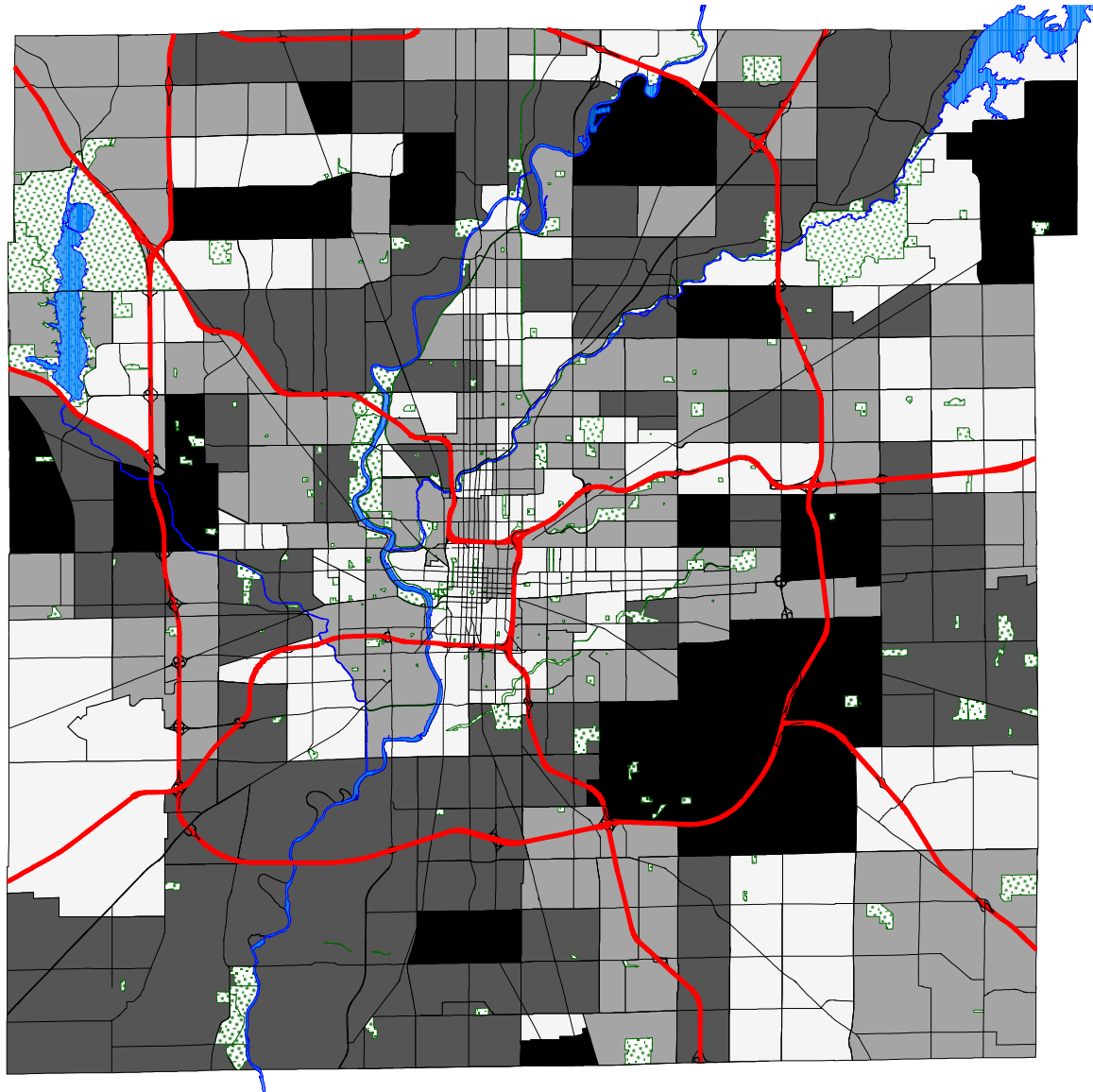
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Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
 Geographic Information Systems



# Demographic Profiles

## Age Distribution - Persons 65 and Older Marion County, Indiana



Major Streets  
Interstates  
Major Thoroughfares  
Primary Arterial Streets  
Rivers  
Parks  
Persons 65 and Older  
0 - 283  
283 - 514  
514 - 850  
850 - 1505

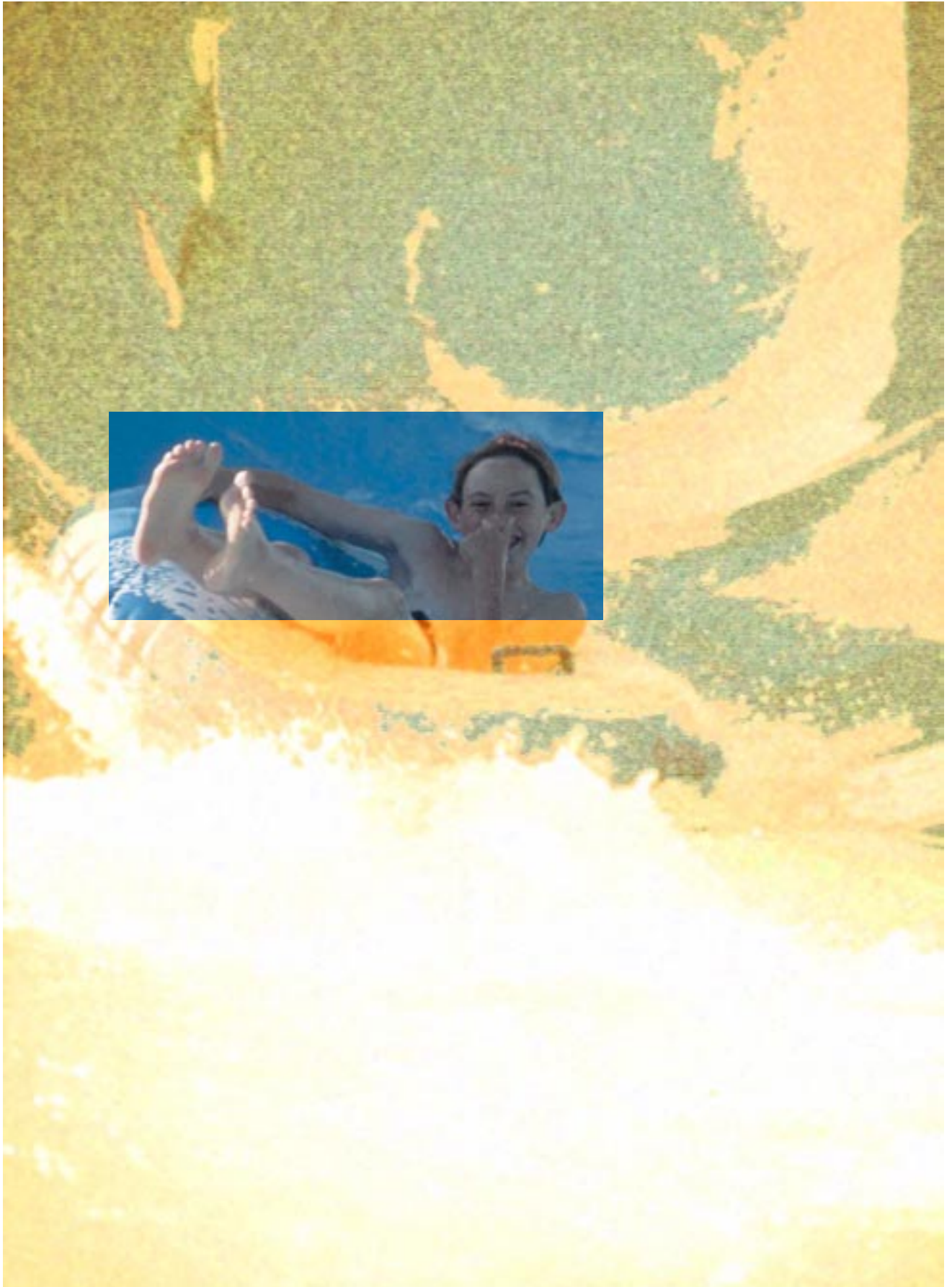
1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

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Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems







# Facilities and Programs

## INDY PARKS FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

When completing the 1999 Comprehensive Plan, Indy Parks re-classified its parks into the following categories. These park classifications have served well and will not change significantly. Using park descriptions created by the National Recreation and Park Association (1995), Indy Parks classified the park system as a way to better describe the function, size and facilities that would be expected at each park type. Much of the text describing each park type is taken from Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines (1996).

It should be noted that there can be exceptions to each description that follows, however these should be few and far between. The temptation to place facilities and programs where convenient, or politically encouraged, should be resisted in order to maintain integrity of the park system.



Page	Park Type	Number	Acreage
79	Regional Parks	6	4960
82	Community Parks	21	876
85	Neighborhood Parks	68	943
93	Mini Parks	25	21
96	Special Use Parks	15	247
99	Golf Courses	13	1929
102	Natural Resource Areas	15	441
105	Sports Complexes	7	160
108	Monuments-Memorials	8	12
	Totals	<b>178</b>	<b>9589</b>
111	Greenways	16	708
	38.4 Trail Miles Complete		
114	Family Recreation Centers	23	
117	Aquatic Centers	22	
	7900 Bathers Total		
120	Environmental Education Parks	37	

# Regional Parks

## REGIONAL PARKS

The regional parks offer county residents the opportunity to participate in a variety of park experiences capable of entertaining the entire family for extended time periods. It may provide a natural setting or sense of remoteness from the common urban fabric or enrich participants about our cultural heritage. Because regional parks are designed for both active and passive recreation, and are centered on unique terrain, extensive natural areas, scenic views, a lake, river, or cultural features, they typically attract a large number of persons from throughout the county. These parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.

**SIZE:** Regional Parks are a minimum of 50 acres with 75 or more acres being optimal.

**SERVICE AREA:** Their service area includes several adjacent communities in addition to all of Marion County. The normal drive time is 1 hour or less. Depending on the amenities offered, Regional Parks draw from all of Central Indiana with a focus on Boone, Hamilton, Hendricks, Hancock, Morgan, Johnson, and Shelby counties.

**CHARACTER:** A variety of terrain, scenic views, cultural amenities and extensive natural areas are important features as well as both passive and active recreational opportunities.

**LOCATION:** Areas of significant natural characteristics that are easily accessible to surrounding communities.

**TYPICAL FACILITIES:** Regional Parks may have recreation centers, nature centers, aquatic facilities, golf courses, play grounds, athletic fields/courts, trails, shelters and open space. Regional parks may also have unique features such as designated nature preserves, a conservatory, velodrome, horse trails, or a soap box derby hill.

**PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES:** Regional Parks may include resources that allow for a variety of recreational programming. Passive self-directed pro-

# Facilities and Programs



## Eagle Creek Regional Park

gramming such as walking, nature study, picnicking, and fishing may be augmented by active programs including athletics, music and theater programs, and special events. Regional Parks may have unique natural resources that influence the makeup and mix of programs offered at the site.

Many Regional Parks also contain aquatic centers and/or Family Centers that provide drop-in and organized programming for youth, families, adults and seniors. Core program services for Regional Parks include sports and fitness, art and culture, self enrichment, environmental education, therapeutic and inclusion and senior programs.

Regional Parks are larger in size and are often the parks of choice for large events that require adequate parking, open space, facilities and traffic flow. Typical special events may include musical concerts, outdoor movies or theater programs, cultural events, sporting events or gatherings for families, corporations or neighborhoods.

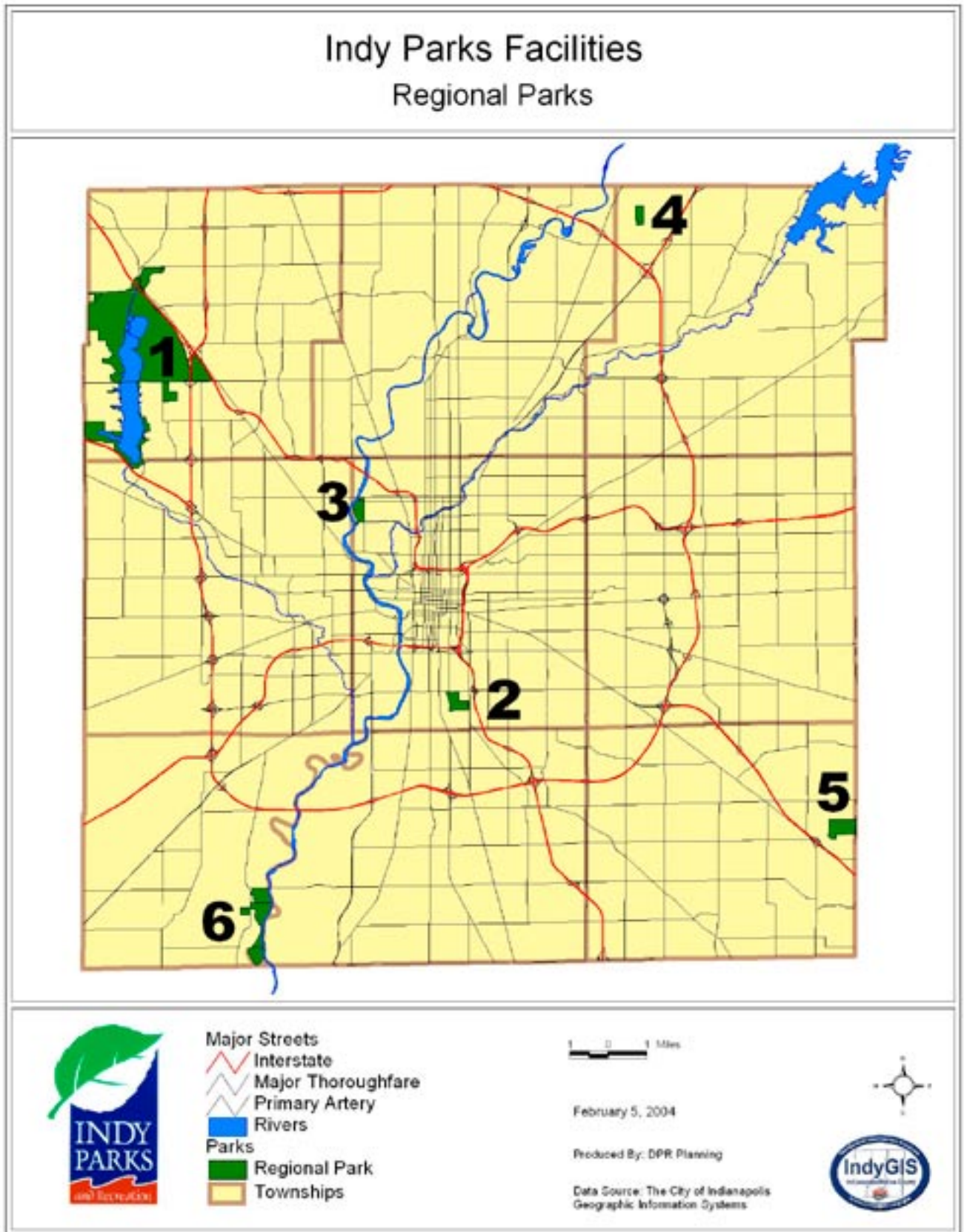
# Facilities and Programs

# Regional Parks

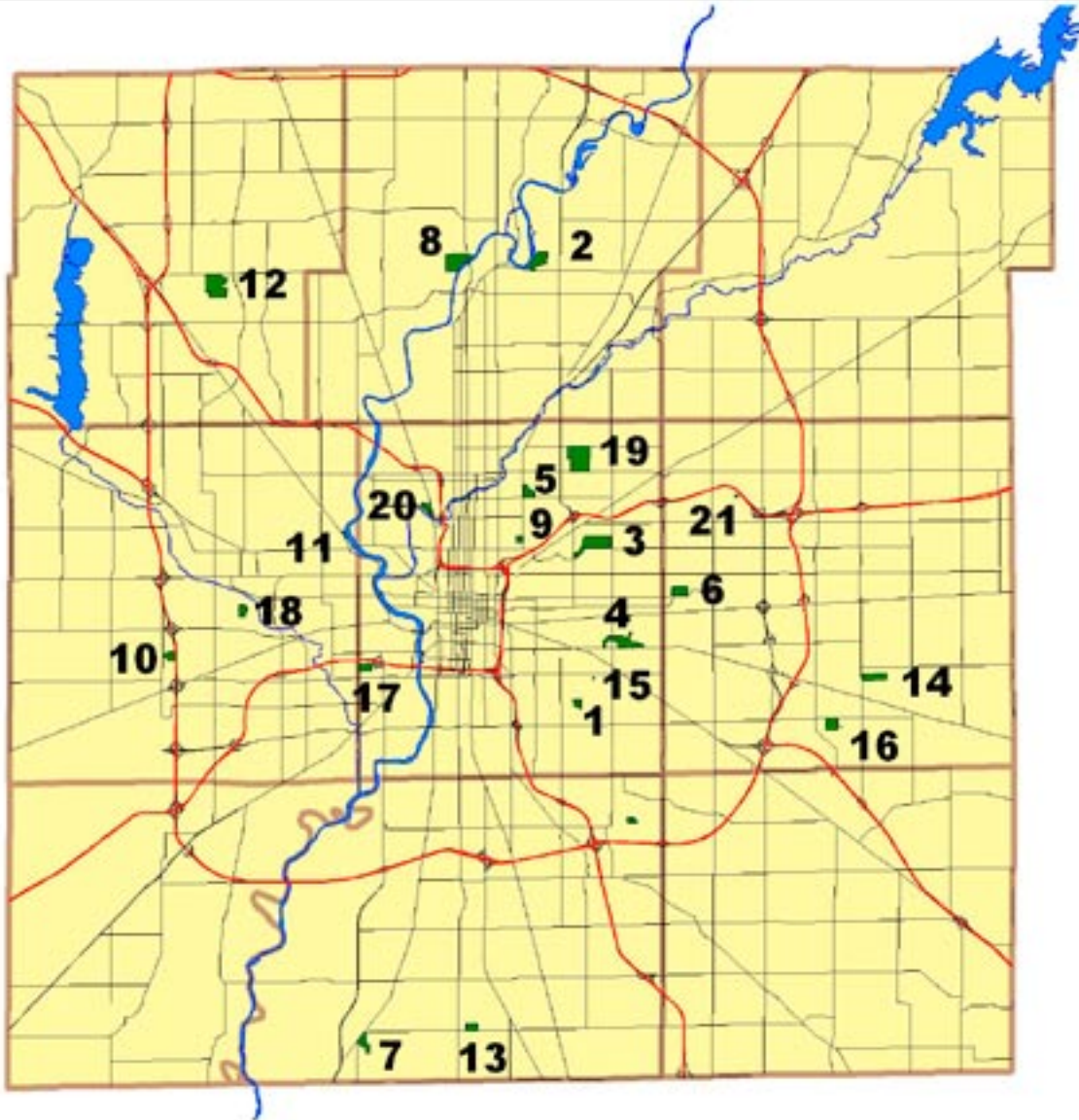
Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Clusters	Playground	Parking Lots	Trail - Paved (Miles)	Trail - Gravel (Miles)	Trail - Dirt (Miles)	Baseball	Baseball Lighted	Basketball	Football	Soccer Fields	Softball	Softball Lighted	Tennis Court	Tennis Court Lighted	Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Holes	Horseshoes
1	Eagle Creek Park	7840 W 56th St	4279.0	Pike	1962		16	1	3	14	2.3	Many	11.6					3					1		
2	Garfield Park	2450 S Shelby St	122.9	Center	1873	Y	8	8	2	15	2.3			3		1	1	1				8			3
3	Riverside Park	2420 N Riverside E Dr	95.7	Center	1898	Y	6	3	2	5				4		2	4					4			2
4	Sahn Park	6801 E 91st St	66.3	Lawrence	1961		4	1	1	2	0.4		1.5			1		7		3		4		4	18
5	Southeastway Park	5624 S Carroll Rd	185.9	Franklin	1961		6	5	1	5	1.4		2.0										1		1
6	Southwestway Park	8400 S Mann Rd	210.7	Decatur	1961		1		1	2			7.1	1	3										

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Family Center	Nature Center	Pool - Outdoor	Water Slide	Spray Area	Canine Companion Zone	Sledding Hill	Water Feature	Special Features
1	Eagle Creek Park	7840 W 56th St		1				1	2	Eagle Creek Reservoir	Beach, Rowing Course, Marina, Boat Launch
2	Garfield Park	2450 S Shelby St	1		1	1	1		1	Pleasant Run, Bean Creek	Arts Center, Amphitheatre, Sunken Gardens, Conservatory
3	Riverside Park	2420 N Riverside E Dr	1		1	1				White River, Pond	
4	Sahn Park	6801 E 91st St			1	2	1			Buck Creek, Pond	
5	Southeastway Park	5624 S Carroll Rd		1					1	White River	Prairie Plantings
6	Southwestway Park	8400 S Mann Rd								White River	Equestrian Trails





## Indy Parks Facilities Community Parks



Major Streets  
 Interstate  
 Major Thoroughfare  
 Primary Artery  
 Rivers  
 Parks  
 Community Park  
 Townships

1 0 1 Miles

February 3, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
 Geographic Information Systems



# Community Parks

# Facilities and Programs

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acres	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Clusters	Playground	Parking Lots	Trail - Paved (Miles)	Trail - Gravel (Miles)	Trail - Dirt (Miles)	Baseball Fields	Basketball Courts	Football Fields	Soccer Fields	Softball Fields	Tennis Court	Tennis Court Lighted	Volleyball Court	Disc Golf Holes	Horseshoes
1	Bethel Park	2945 E Minnesota St	14.5	Center	1935		1		1	1						1		1					3
2	Broad Ripple Park	1500 Broad Ripple Ave	56.2	Washington	1946		2	1	1	5		1.0	0.5				1		6				
3	Brookside Park	3500 Brookside Pkwy S Dr	99.6	Center	1898	Y	3		2	7				3	3	1	1	2	4			18	1
4	Christian Park	4125 English Ave	73.2	Center	1921	Y	2	1	2	6	1.0			6	1	1		2	5				
5	Douglass Park	1425 E 25th St	27.6	Center	1921		2		1	4	0.6			1	1	1		2	4				
6	Ellenberger Park	5301 E St Clair St	37.4	Warren	1911	Y	1	1	2	3		1.3		1		1		1	4				
7	Glenns Valley Nature Park	8015 Bluff Rd	30.0	Perry	1991					2		1.0											
8	Holiday Park	6349 Spring Mill Rd	95.3	Washington	1916		1		1	3		2.3	0.8										
9	JTV Hill Park	1806 N Columbia Ave	9.8	Center	1921		1		1	1					2		1	1					
10	Krannert Park	605 S High School Rd	21.8	Wayne	1972		2		1	3	0.4	0.6			1			3	4				
11	Municipal Gardens	1831 N Lafayette Rd	5.1	Wayne	1915	Y	1		1	1					1								
12	Northwestway Park	5253 W 62nd St	109.9	Pike	1957		2		1	4	2.0			4	4		8	3				18	
13	Perry Park	451 E Stop 11 Rd	21.0	Perry	1961		2		1	5		0.4			1		1		4				
14	Post Road Community Park	1313 S Post Rd	40.9	Warren	1991		1		1	1					2			1					4
15	Pride Park	1229 S Vandeman St	0.5	Center	1988				1						1								
16	Raymond Park - Indy Island	8300 E Raymond St	35.6	Warren	1971					1		0.5											
17	Rhodius Park	1001 S Belmont St	25.4	Center	1913	Y	2		2	1		1.6		3	1			2	4				
18	Thatcher Park	4649 W Vermont St	22.1	Wayne	1973		2		1	2		0.8		1	1	1		2					
19	Washington Park	2801 E 30th St	128.1	Center	1923		3	4	2	9	2.3	0.5			6		1				2	18	
20	Watkins Park	2360 Dr M L King Jr Dr	19.1	Center	1913	Y	1		1	1					1	1		2	4				
21	Windsor Village Park	2501 N Kenyon Ave	3.2	Warren	1953		1		1	1					1								

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Family Center	Nature Center	Ice Rink	Pool - Indoor	Pool - Outdoor	Water Slide	Spray Area	Canine Companion Zone	Sledding Hill	Water Feature	Special Feature
1	Bethel Park	2945 E Minnesota St					1	1	1				
2	Broad Ripple Park	1500 Broad Ripple Ave	1				1			1		White River	Boat Launch
3	Brookside Park	3500 Brookside Pkwy S Dr	1				1	1	1			Pogues Run	
4	Christian Park	4125 English Ave	1						1			Pleasant Run	
5	Douglass Park	1425 E 25th St	1				1						
6	Ellenberger Park	5301 E St Clair St	1		1					1		Pleasant Run	
7	Glenns Valley Nature Park	8015 Bluff Rd		1									
8	Holiday Park	6349 Spring Mill Rd		1								White River	Ruins
9	JTV Hill Park	1806 N Columbia Ave	1										
10	Krannert Park	605 S High School Rd	1			1	1	1				Pond	
11	Municipal Gardens	1831 N Lafayette Rd	1						1			White River	ADA Fishing Platform
12	Northwestway Park	5253 W 62nd St				1	2	1				Little Eagle Creek	
13	Perry Park	451 E Stop 11 Rd	1		1		1	1					
14	Post Road Community Park	1313 S Post Rd											
15	Pride Park	1229 S Vandeman St	1										
16	Raymond Park - Indy Island	8300 E Raymond St			1			1				Pond	Wetland
17	Rhodius Park	1001 S Belmont St				1					1		
18	Thatcher Park	4649 W Vermont St	1			1							
19	Washington Park	2801 E 30th St	1									Pond	Challenge Course
20	Watkins Park	2360 Dr M L King Jr Dr	1										
21	Windsor Village Park	2501 N Kenyon Ave	1						1				



## COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks fall between Regional and Neighborhood Parks in size and scope of services. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. They allow for group activities and offer other recreational opportunities not feasible, nor perhaps desirable, at the neighborhood level. As with neighborhood parks, they should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities.

**SIZE:** In addition to minimum size of 25 to 100 acres, a park may be classified as a community park, solely on the amenities and programs offered to a particular neighborhood.

**LOCATION CRITERIA:** A community park should serve two or more neighborhoods. Although its service area should be 0.5 to 3.0 miles in radius, the quality of the natural resource base should play a significant role in its site selection. The site should be serviced by arterial and collector streets and easily accessible from throughout its service area by way of interconnecting trails.

**SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES:** The site's natural character should play a very significant role in its site selection, with an emphasis on sites that preserve unique landscapes within the community and/or provide recreational opportunities not otherwise available. Ease of access from throughout the service area, geographically centered, and relationship to other park areas are also key concerns in site selection.

The site should exhibit physical characteristics appropriate for both active and passive recreation use. It should have suitable soils, positive drainage, varying topography, and a variety of vegetation. Where feasible, it should be adjacent to natural resource areas and greenways. These linkages tend to expand the recreational opportunities within the community and enhance one's perception of surrounding open space.

Depending upon their individual character and use, lakes, ponds, and rivers may be associated with either community parks or natural resource areas. Community Park and Natural Resource Area classifications differ in that the former is generally more *developed*

for passive recreational use than the latter.

**DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS:** Neighborhood and community input through the public meeting process should be the primary determinant of developing programs for the park.

Community parks are typically developed for both active and passive uses. Although active recreation, facilities are intended to be used in an informal and unstructured manner, reserved and programmed use is compatible and acceptable. However, community parks are not intended to be used extensively for programmed adult athletic use and tournaments.

A menu of potential active recreation facilities includes large play structures and/or creative play attractions, game courts, informal ballfields for youth play, tennis courts, volleyball courts, horseshoe areas, ice skating areas, swimming pools, swimming beaches, and disc golf areas. Passive activity facilities include extensive internal trails (that connect to the community trail system), individual and group picnic/sitting areas, general open space and unique landscapes/features, nature study areas, and display gardens. Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park, are also appropriate. The distribution of land area between active and passive recreation, reserve, display, conservation, and cultural areas is determined on a site by site basis.

**PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES:** Community Parks offer open space and developed recreation areas to accommodate both passive and active recreational programs.

Community Parks are capable of providing services to several neighborhoods and often offer programs in all of the core program areas of sports and fitness, art and culture, aquatics, environmental education, self enrichment, therapeutic and inclusion programs and senior services. Community Parks offer at least one major indoor recreational facility such as a Family Center, Ice Rink or Nature Center. Many also include a pool or aquatic center.

Community Parks may occasionally be used for large special events drawing park users from a larger service area for an isolated event.

# Neighborhood Parks

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. They should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities geared specifically for those living in the service area. Accommodating a wide variety of age and user groups, including children, adults, senior citizens, and special populations, is important. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is vital to successful design. The neighborhood park is designed to provide the types of recreation one would expect to be able to walk to rather than be required to drive to. Neighborhood Parks offer small areas of open space and a sampling of park resources to service individual neighborhoods.

**SIZE CRITERIA:** Demographic profiles and population density within the park's service area are determinants of a neighborhood park's size. Generally, 5 acres is accepted as the minimum size necessary to provide space for a variety of recreation activities. 7 to 10 acres is considered optimal, up to 25 acres would be ideal.

**SERVICE AREA:** A neighborhood park is limited by geographical or social limits (maximum 20 minutes walking distance). The park primarily serves the local neighborhoods located within a radius of 1/4 to 1/2 mile of the park, without physical or social barriers to the boundaries.

**CHARACTER:** Able to support intensive use. Ideally level and open with some shady areas.

**LOCATION CRITERIA:** A neighborhood park should be centrally located within its service area, which encompasses a 1/4 to 1/2 mile distance uninterrupted by arterial roads and other physical barriers. It should be located away from railroads, main streets and other hazardous barriers. The distances might vary depending on development diversity. The site should be accessible from throughout its service area by way of interconnecting trails, sidewalks, or low-volume residential streets. Ease of access and walking distance are critical factors in locating a neighborhood park.

# Facilities and Programs

**SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES:** Ease of access from the surrounding neighborhood, central location, and linkage to greenways are the key concerns when selecting a site. The site itself should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for both active and passive recreation uses. Since one of the primary reasons people go to a park is to experience a pleasant outdoor environment, the site should exhibit some innate aesthetic qualities. "Left-over" parcels of land that are undesirable for development are generally undesirable for neighborhood parks as well and should be avoided. Additionally, it is more cost effective to select a site with inherent aesthetic qualities, rather than try to create them through extensive site development. Given the importance of location, neighborhood parks should be selected before a subdivision is platted and acquired as part of the development process. Ideally, it should be connected to other park system components such as natural resource areas, lakes, ponds, and greenways.

## DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS/

**RECREATION ACTIVITY:** Since each neighborhood in a community is unique, neighborhood input should be used to determine the development program for the park. The guidelines presented here should be used as a framework to guide program development and ensure consistency with other park system components.

Development of a neighborhood park should seek to achieve a balance between active and passive park uses. Active recreational facilities are intended to be used in an informal and unstructured manner. With the exception of limited use by youth teams, neighborhood parks are not intended to be used for programmed activities that result in overuse, noise, parking problems, and congestion.

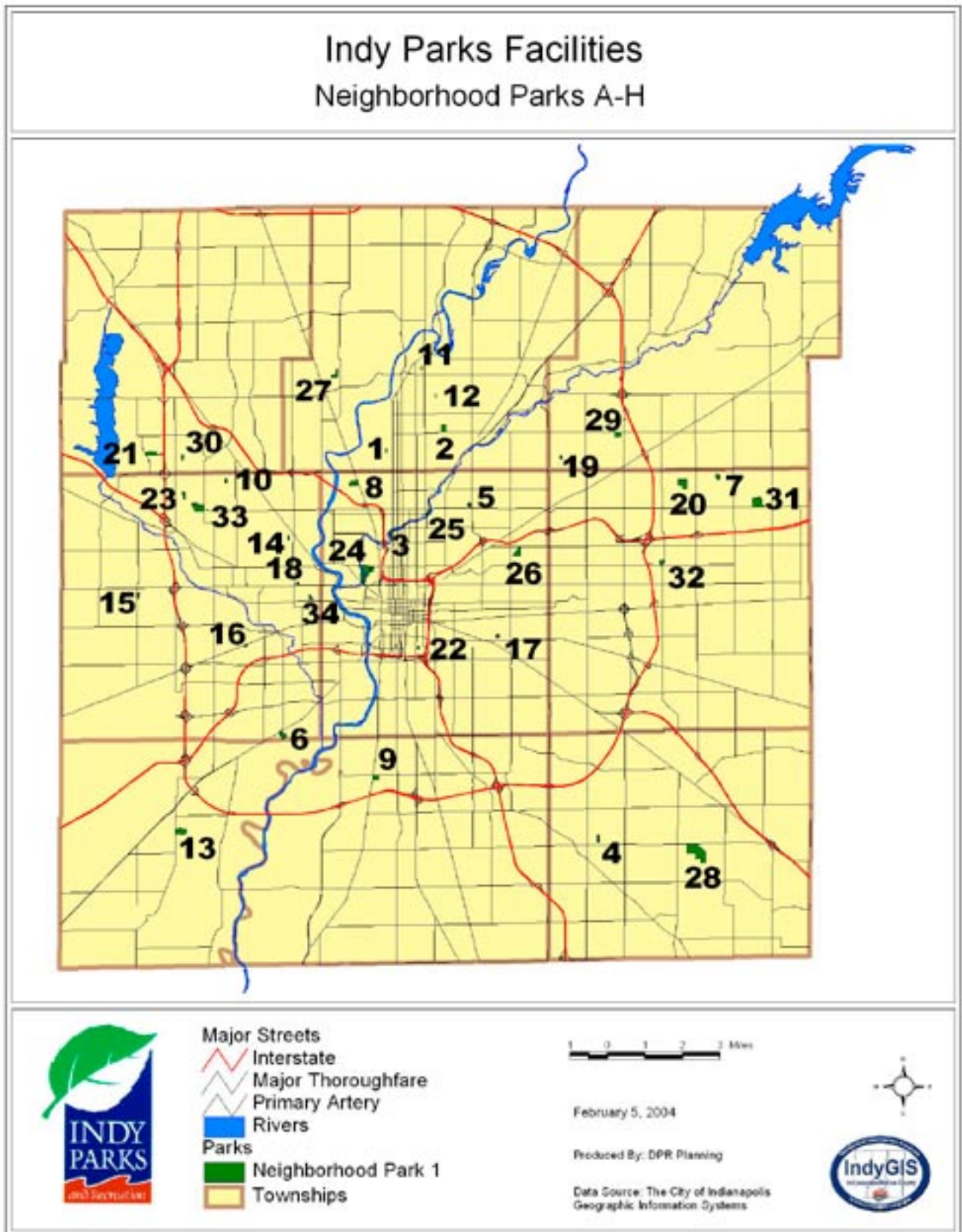
A menu of potential active recreation facilities includes play structures, court games, "informal" (i.e. non-programmed) playfield or open space, tennis courts, volleyball courts, shuffle board courts, horse-shoe area, ice skating area and apray area. Facilities for passive activities include internal trails (that could connect to the greenway system), picnic/sitting areas, general open space, and "people watching" areas. As a general rule, active recreational facilities should consume roughly 50% of the park's acreage. The remaining 50% should be used for passive activities, reserve, ornamentation, and conservation as appropriate.

# Facilities and Programs

# Neighborhood Parks

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Clusters	Playground	Parking Lots	Trail - Paved (Miles)	Trail - Gravel (Miles)	Trail - Dirt (Miles)	Baseball	Baseball Lighted	Basketball	Football	Soccer Fields	Softball	Tennis Court	Tennis Court Lighted	Volleyball Court	Horseshoes
1	Andrew Ramsey Park	310 W 42nd St	2.1	Washington	1971		1		1			0.2											
2	Arsenal Park	1400 E 46th St	12.3	Washington	1929		1		1	3						1			2	2			
3	Barton Park	2334 N Capitol Ave	6.1	Center	1946	Y			1														
4	Basewood Park	6420 E Edgewood Ave	6.9	Franklin	2003																		
5	Beckwith Memorial Park	2302 E 30th St	5.2	Center	1970			1	1							2	1			1			
6	Bel Aire Park	2915 Tibbs Ave	14.7	Wayne	2002					1													
7	Bellamy Park	9501 E 36th Pl	6.8	Warren	1962		1		1								1						
8	Bertha Ross Park	3700 N Clifton St	15.4	Center	1925		2		1	2						1		2					
9	Bluff Park	555 W Hanna Ave	10.4	Perry			1		1	1		0.4				1		3					
10	Bowman Park	3600 Auburn Rd	4.8	Wayne	1959		1		1									1					
11	Broadway & 61st Park	6051 N Broadway St	2.7	Washington	1928		1		1	1										2		1	
12	Canterbury Park	5510 N Carvel Ave	1.7	Washington	1959		1		1													1	
13	Carson Park	5400 S High School Rd	25.4	Decatur	1965		2		1	5	0.8				6	2	2						
14	Centennial & Groff Park	2300 N Centennial Ave	3.6	Wayne	1926			1	1														
15	Chapel Hill Park	900 Girls School Rd	5.0	Wayne			1		1	1						2			1	2			
16	Christina Oaks Park	4205 W Washington St	2.4	Wayne	1971				1							1				1			
17	Clayton & LaSalle Park	401 S LaSalle St	3.8	Center	1972		1		1									1					
18	Denver Park	1024 N Sharon Ave	2.4	Wayne	1925		1		1	1						1							
19	Doris Cowherd Park	4050 N Irvington Ave	2.6	Lawrence	1956				1							1							
20	Dubarry Park	3698 Dubarry Rd	26.9	Warren	1967		2		1	2			0.2			1	1		2	4			
21	Eagle Highlands Neighborhood Park	6919 Inland Dr	17.6	Pike	1989		1		1			0.8											
22	Edna Balz Lacy Park	700 Greer St	2.1	Center	1917		1		2														
23	Faculty Park	3307 Ashway Dr	6.2	Wayne	1961				1	1						1	1						
24	Fall Creek & 16th Park	Fall Creek Pkwy & 16th St	67.0	Center	1979	Y	3	1	1	2						1			2	2			
25	Fall Creek & 30th Park	Fall Creek Pkwy & 30th St	11.3	Center	1910	Y										2				3			
26	Forest Manor Park	2000 N Forest Manor Ave	18.1	Center	1937	Y			1	1									1				
27	Fox Hill Manor	5900 Woodside Dr	9.2	Washington	1964																		
28	Franklin Township Community Park	8801 E Edgewood Ave	96.8	Franklin	1970		1		1	1		1.0	2.2			2							
29	Gardner Park	6900 E 46th St	13.1	Lawrence	1962		2		1	1						1			1	2			
30	Gateway West Park	6150 Gateway Dr	5.0	Pike	1963		1		1								1						
31	German Church & 30th Park	10510 E 30th St	38.8	Warren	1971		1		1	2						1		2	3	4			
32	Greene Park	1700 Franklin Rd	10.3	Warren	1971				1	1											4	4	
33	Gustafson Park	3110 Moller Rd	32.3	Wayne	1961		1		1	2				6		2	2			2			
34	Haughville Park	520 N Bellevue Pl	5.6	Wayne	1922		1	1	1							2			1			1	





# Facilities and Programs

# Neighborhood Parks

ate. Developing an appealing park atmosphere should be considered an important site element.

The site should accommodate 7 to 10 off street parking spaces, for use by those who choose or need to drive to the park.

**PROGRAM OFFERINGS:** Neighborhood parks are smaller in size than Community Parks and contain no indoor facilities or programming staff. The parks may have two to three developed areas for sports activities, picnicking, fitness trails and playgrounds. These parks serve as centers for self directed recreational

programs and some structured programming usually organized by local neighborhood organizations, churches or other partners in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Parks are limited in the amount of parking, and available open space and are accessed by smaller neighborhood streets. Most use is walk-in users from the local neighborhood. Neighborhood Parks are not designed to accommodate special events that draw participation from beyond the local neighborhood.

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Pool - Outdoor	Water Slide	Spray Area	Sledding Hill	Water Feature	Special Features
1	Andrew Ramsey Park	310 W 42nd St			1			
2	Arsenal Park	1400 E 46th St			1			
3	Barton Park	2334 N Capitol Ave					Fall Creek	
4	Basswood Park	6420 E Edgewood Ave					Pond	
5	Beckwith Memorial Park	2302 E 30th St						
6	Bel Aire Park	2915 Tibbs Ave				1		
7	Bellamy Park	9501 E 36th Pl						
8	Bertha Ross Park	3700 N Clifton St						
9	Bluff Park	555 W Hanna Ave						
10	Bowman Park	3600 Auburn Rd						
11	Broadway & 61st Park	6051 N Broadway St			1			
12	Canterbury Park	5510 N Carvel Ave						Monon Access
13	Carson Park	5400 S High School Rd						
14	Centennial & Groff Park	2300 N Centennial Ave			1			
15	Chapel Hill Park	900 Girls School Rd					Farley Creek	
16	Christina Oaks Park	4205 W Washington St						
17	Clayton & LaSalle Park	401 S LaSalle St						
18	Denver Park	1024 N Sharon Ave						
19	Doris Cowherd Park	4050 N Irvington Ave						
20	Dubarry Park	3698 Dubarry Rd					Pond	
21	Eagle Highlands Neighborhood Park	6919 Inland Dr						
22	Edna Balz Lacy Park	700 Greer St						Bocce Courts
23	Faculty Park	3307 Ashway Dr					Dry Run	
24	Fall Creek & 16th Park	Fall Creek Pkwy & 16th St					Fall Creek	Wetland
25	Fall Creek & 30th Park	Fall Creek Pkwy & 30th St					Fall Creek	
26	Forest Manor Park	2000 N Forest Manor Ave					Pogues Run	
27	Fox Hill Manor	5900 Woodside Dr					Crooked Creek	
28	Franklin Township Community Park	8801 E Edgewood Ave					Wildcat Brook, Pond	Fishing Platform
29	Gardner Park	6900 E 46th St						
30	Gateway West Park	6150 Gateway Dr					Dry Run	
31	German Church & 30th Park	10510 E 30th St					Grassy Creek	
32	Greene Park	1700 Franklin Rd						Ryan White Memorial
33	Gustafson Park	3110 Moller Rd	1				Dry Run	
34	Haughville Park	520 N Bellevue Pl			1			

# Neighborhood Parks

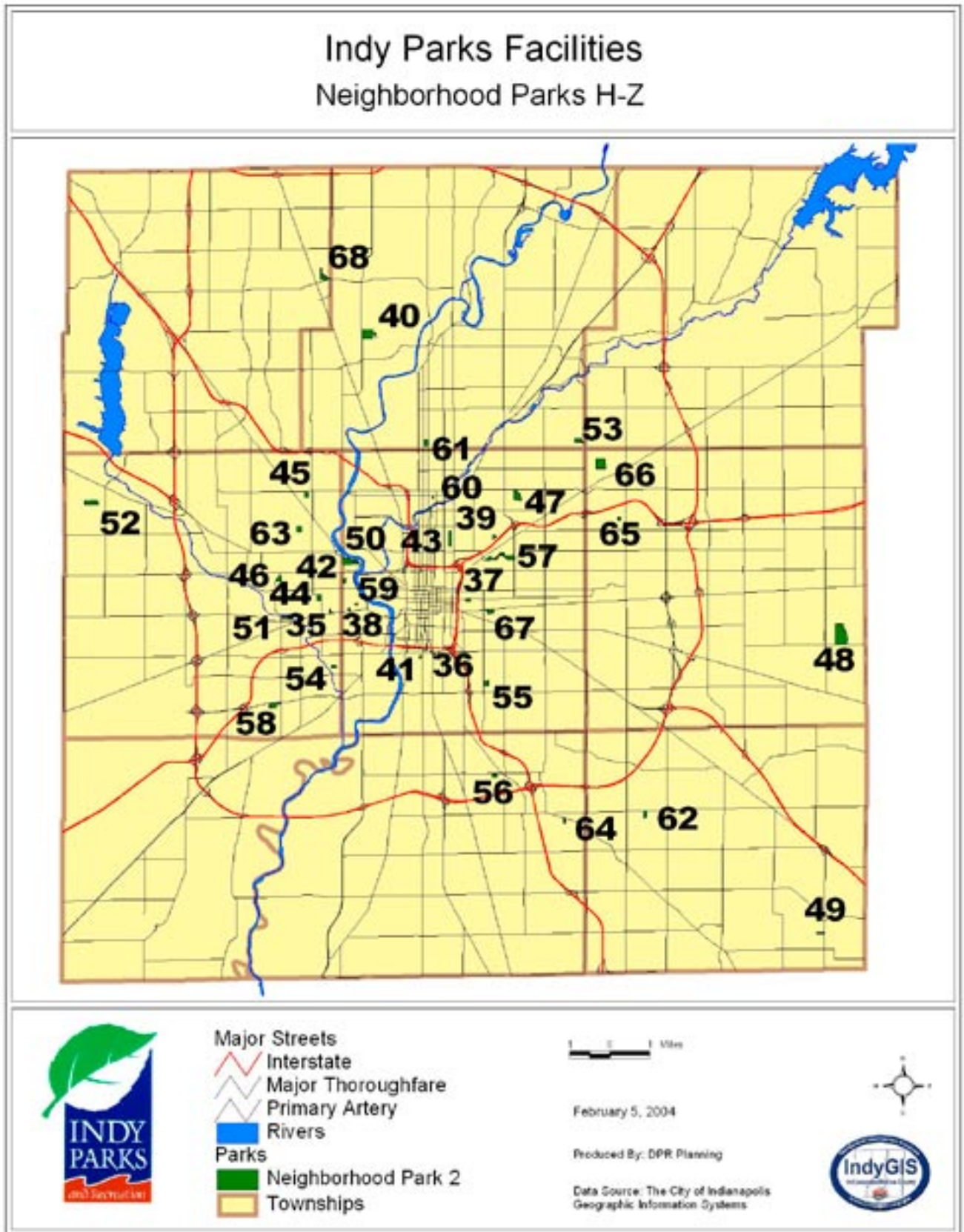
# Facilities and Programs

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Clusters	Playground	Parking Lots	Trail - Paved (Miles)	Trail - Gravel (Miles)	Trail - Dirt (Miles)	Baseball	Baseball Lighted	Basketball	Football	Soccer Fields	Softball	Tennis Court	Tennis Court Lighted	Volleyball Court	Horseshoes
35	Hawthorne Park	75 N Bellevue Pl	3.6	Wayne	1923				1	1				1		1							
36	Hendricks Park	1313 Madison Ave	3.0	Center			1																
37	Highland Park	1100 E New York St	4.1	Center	1898	Y	1		1		0.4					1							
38	Indianola Park	1900 W Washington St	2.1	Center	1896	Y			1							1							
39	John Ed Park	2000 E Roosevelt Ave	3.6	Center	1925				1							1							
40	Juan Solomon Park	6100 Grandview Dr	44.1	Washington	1971		2		1	1		1.4						1					
41	Kelly Park	1200 S Meridian St	2.5	Center	1922				1														
42	Lentz Park	700 N Traub St	3.4	Center	1928				1							1							
43	Martin Luther King Park	1702 N Broadway Ave	14.3	Center	1961		2	2	1	2						2			1				2
44	Max Bahr Park	300 N Warman Ave	10.1	Wayne			2		1	1							1		3				1
45	Moreland Park	2935 N Moreland Ave	6.2	Wayne	1953				1	1						1	1		1				
46	Olin Park	702 N Olin Ave	8.8	Wayne	1967		1		1	1						1							
47	Oscar Charleston Park	2800 E 30th St	22.1	Center	1972		3		1	3	0.4												
48	Paul Ruster Park	11300 E Prospect St	82.1	Warren	1970		2		1	1													3
49	Retherford Park	8020 Acton Rd	5.4	Franklin	2003		1		1	1	0.2												
50	Rev. Mozel Sanders Park	1300 N Belmont St	28.9	Center	1931		1		1	2				1		2				2			1
51	Ridenour Park	3800 W Creston Dr	5.5	Wayne	1956				1	1													
52	Robey Park	2800 S Bridgeport Rd	20.4	Wayne	1972				1	1													
53	Roselawn Park	5000 Roselawn Ave	11.0	Washington	1968		1		1	2						2							
54	Ross Claypool Park	2300 Howard St	3.8	Wayne	1940		1		1	1						1			1				1
55	Sandorf Park	2020 Dawson St	6.4	Center	1959		1		1	1						1			1	1			
56	Southside Park	1941 E Hanna Ave	7.8	Perry	1966		1		1	1						1	1		1				
57	Spades Park	1800 Nowland Ave	30.3	Center	1898	Y	1		1	1									2				
58	Stout Field Park	3820 W Bradbury Rd	13.7	Wayne	1974				1	2						1		1	1				2
59	Stringtown Park	1605 W Ohio St	2.2	Center	1970		1	1	1							1							
60	Talbott & 28th Park	100 E 28th St	1.6	Center	1973		1		1	1						1							
61	Tarkington Park	45 W 40th St	10.3	Washington	1945		1		1	2						1			1	6			
62	Thompson Park	6451 Thompson Rd	8.3	Franklin	1999		1		1	1		0.4											
63	Tibbs & 21st Park	2100 N Tibbs Ave	9.9	Wayne	1971		1		1	1						2			1	2			
64	Tolin-Akeman Park	4459 Shelbyville Rd	5.5	Perry	1989				1	1													
65	Virginia Lee O'Brien Park	2300 N Bolton Ave	3.6	Warren	1956				1	1						1							1
66	Wes Montgomery Park	3400 N Hawthorne Ln	36.8	Warren	1970		1		1	2	1.1												
67	Willard Park	1901 E Washington St	10.9	Center	1907	Y	1		1	1				3		5							
68	WISH Park	2602 Westlane Rd	16.2	Pike	1995		1		1	1													





Map Number	Park Name	Address	Pool - Outdoor	Water Slide	Spray Area	Sledding Hill	Water Feature	Special Features
35	Hawthorne Park	75 N Bellevue Pl						
36	Hendricks Park	1313 Madison Ave						Sculpture
37	Highland Park	1100 E New York St						
38	Indianola Park	1900 W Washington St						
39	John Ed Park	2000 E Roosevelt Ave						
40	Juan Solomon Park	6100 Grandview Dr					Crooked Creek	
41	Kelly Park	1200 S Meridian St						
42	Lentz Park	700 N Traub St						
43	Martin Luther King Park	1702 N Broadway Ave	1					King/Kennedy Memorial
44	Max Bahr Park	300 N Warman Ave						
45	Moreland Park	2935 N Moreland Ave						
46	Olin Park	702 N Olin Ave						
47	Oscar Charleston Park	2800 E 30th St						
48	Paul Ruster Park	11300 E Prospect St				1	Buck Creek, Pond	
49	Retherford Park	8020 Acton Rd						
50	Rev. Mozel Sanders Park	1300 N Belmont St						
51	Ridenour Park	3800 W Creston Dr					Eagle Creek	
52	Robey Park	2800 S Bridgeport Rd						
53	Roselawn Park	5000 Roselawn Ave						
54	Ross Claypool Park	2300 Howard St						
55	Sandorf Park	2020 Dawson St						
56	Southside Park	1941 E Hanna Ave						
57	Spades Park	1800 Nowland Ave					Pogues Run	
58	Stout Field Park	3820 W Bradbury Rd						
59	Stringtown Park	1605 W Ohio St						
60	Talbott & 29th Park	100 E 29th St						
61	Tarkington Park	45 W 40th St						
62	Thompson Park	6451 Thompson Rd						
63	Tibbs & 21st Park	2100 N Tibbs Ave						
64	Tolin-Akeman Park	4459 Shelbyville Rd						
65	Virginia Lee O'Brien Park	2300 N Bolton Ave						
66	Wes Montgomery Park	3400 N Hawthorne Ln	1					
67	Willard Park	1901 E Washington St	1	1	1			
68	WISH Park	2602 Westlane Rd					Crooked Creek	



# Facilities and Programs

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# Mini Parks

## MINI PARKS

The mini park is designed to offer green space in those urban locations where yards are limited or in areas not served by any other park. They are established when larger acreage is unavailable, particularly in densely populated, developed areas. The cost of development and maintenance of mini parks is very high relative to the number of people served. Therefore mini parks are only created when neighborhoods enter into a long-term partnership with Indy Parks. As part of the community partnership commitment they bring development and maintenance endowment dollars as well as sweat-equity to the project. Land most frequently used for such a facility has been vacant lots scattered throughout the inner city, although newer suburban sub-divisions are setting land aside for mini parks. Such parks are usually designed for the use of a specific age group (i.e., preschool children, teens or senior citizens) living within the immediate neighborhood, or they address limited or isolated recreation needs, or they are located where dense residential populations limit the availability of open space. Recreation resources include both active and passive use.

**SIZE:** Mini parks are between 2500 square feet and one acre in size. However, park areas less than 5 acres would technically be considered a mini-park. Anything larger would be considered a neighborhood park.

**SERVICE AREA:** Several city blocks or less than 1/4 mile in a residential setting.

**CHARACTER:** The character may be either one of intensive use or aesthetic enjoyment. Low maintenance of these facilities is essential; also area residents should be encouraged to assist in policing and the day-to-day maintenance of this type of park. The primary function of such a park is to provide passive recreation space to those areas of the county where population densities limit the available open space.

**LOCATION CRITERIA:** Location is determined by the needs of the neighborhood, partnership opportunities and the availability and accessibility of land.

Although demographics and population density play a role in location, the justification for a mini park lies more in servicing a specific recreational need or taking

# Facilities and Programs

advantage of a unique opportunity. Given the potential variety of mini park activities and locations, services will vary. In a residential setting, however, the service area is usually less than 1/4 mile in radius. Accessibility by way of interconnecting trails, sidewalks, or low-volume residential streets increases use opportunities and therefore is an important consideration

## SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES:

Servicing a specific recreation need, ease of access from the surrounding area, and linkage to the community pathway system are key concerns when selecting a site.

The site itself should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for its intended uses. It should have well-drained and suitable soils. Usually these sites are fairly level. Vegetation (natural and planted) should be used to enhance its aesthetic qualities rather than impede development. Ideally, it should have adjacency to other park system components, most notably greenways, and the trail system.

## DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS/

**RECREATION ACTIVITY:** Customer input through the public meeting process should be the primary determinant of the development program for this type of park. Although these parks often included elements similar to that of a neighborhood park, there are no specific criteria to guide development of facilities. Given their size, they are typically not intended to be used for programmed activities.

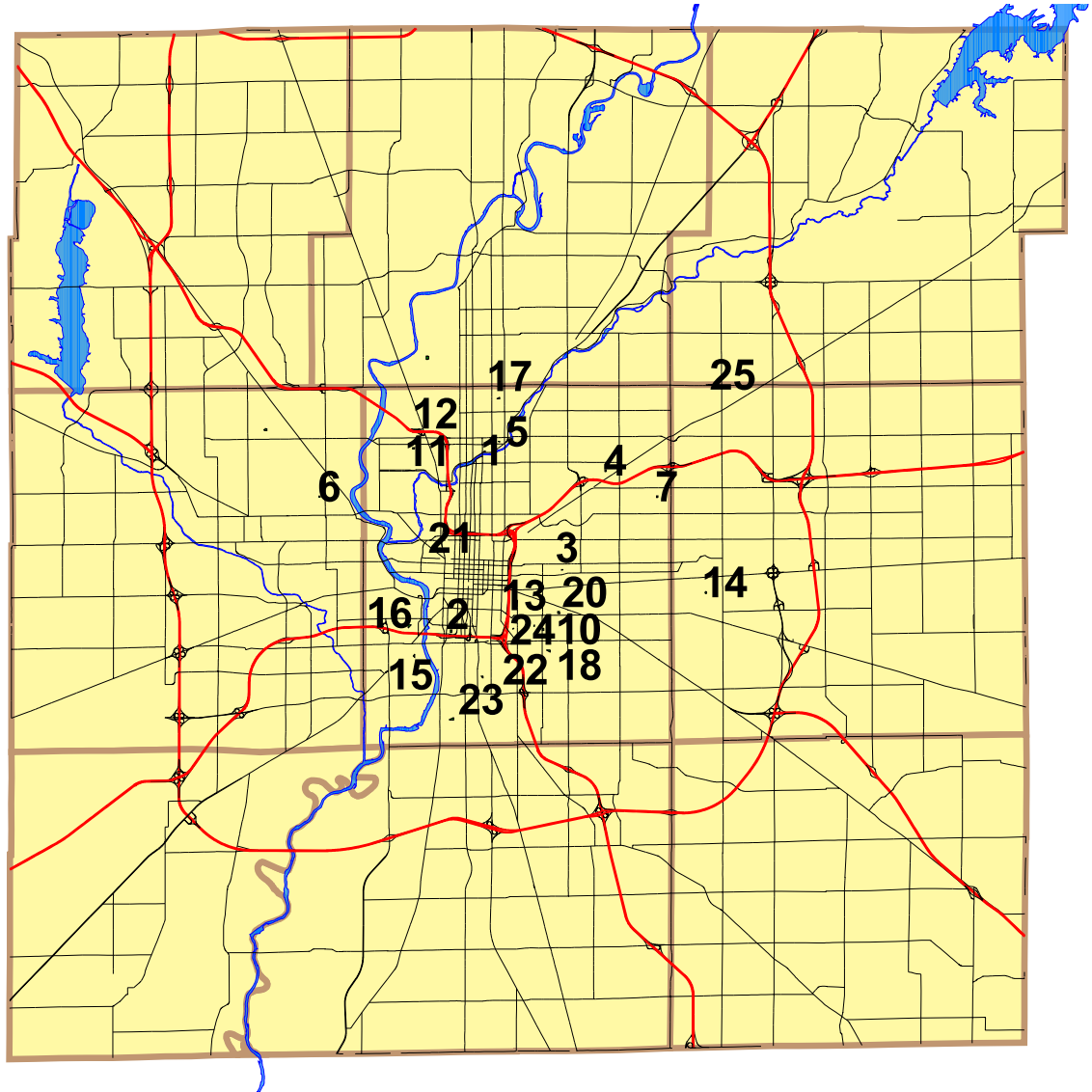
Parking is typically not required. Site lighting should be used for security and safety.

**PROGRAM OFFERINGS:** Mini Parks are not designed to accommodate more than very limited recreational use. They are typically able to provide a single recreational use for one user group such as a play ground for pre-school, benches for walkers, landscape and trails for enjoyment of the natural environment or display of artwork for the local neighborhood.

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Clusters	Playground	Parking Lots	Basketball	Horseshoes	Water Feature	Special Features
1	Al E. Polin Park	300 E Fall Creek Pkwy	0.4	Center	2000	Y			1					
2	Babe Denny Park	900 S Meikel St	1.1	Center	1923		1		1		1			
3	Beville Park	400 N Beville St	0.3	Center	1959				1					
4	Brightwood Park	2350 N Olney St	0.8	Center	1916				2					
5	Broadway & 29th Park	2921 N Park Ave	0.1	Center					1					
6	Centennial & 20th Park	1919 N Centennial Ave	0.4	Wayne	1946				1					
7	Dequincy Park	1980 N DeQuincy St	0.6	Center	1953				1	1			Brookside Creek	
8	Enhardt Park	200 W Pleasant Run Pkwy S Dr	1.8	Center	1923	Y				1			Pleasant Run	
9	Fairview Park	4241 Fairview Ter	2.0	Washington					1					
10	Finch Park	801 S State Ave	0.9	Center	1988				1					
11	Frank Young Park	1000 Udell St	0.7	Center	1922		1	1	1			1		
12	Highway Parcel #15	3100 Rader St	1.3	Center	1980				1		1	2		
13	Hot Shot Tot Lot	948 Elm St	0.1	Center	1975				1					
14	Ivington Circle	236 S Audubon Rd	0.7	Warren	1904	Y								Fountain
15	Little Valley Park	1052 York St	0.7	Center					1		1			
16	McCarty Triangle Park	1100 W McCarty St	1.4	Center	1897	Y		1	1		1			
17	McCord Park	3600 Watson Rd	0.7	Center	1970									
18	Orange Park	1900 E Pleasant Rn Pkwy N Dr	1.1	Center	1993	Y			1	3			Pleasant Run	
19	Patricia Park	4326 Patricia St	1.2	Wayne			1		1				Falcon Creek	
20	Porter Playfield	404 S St Paul St	1.1	Center	1924				1		1			
21	Ransom Place	801 N Indiana Ave	0.3	Center	1997			1						
22	Ringgold Park	1500 Ringgold St	0.2	Center	1973				1					
23	Sexson Park	200 Beecher St	0.6	Center	1973					1	1			
24	Stacy Park	1503 E Hoyt Ave	0.3	Center			1		1					
25	Talley Park	5900 E 38th St	2.1	Lawrence	2001		1							

## Indy Parks Facilities

### Mini Parks



- Major Streets
- Interstates
- Major Thoroughfares
- Primary Arterial Streets
- Rivers
- Parks
- Mini Park
- Townships

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



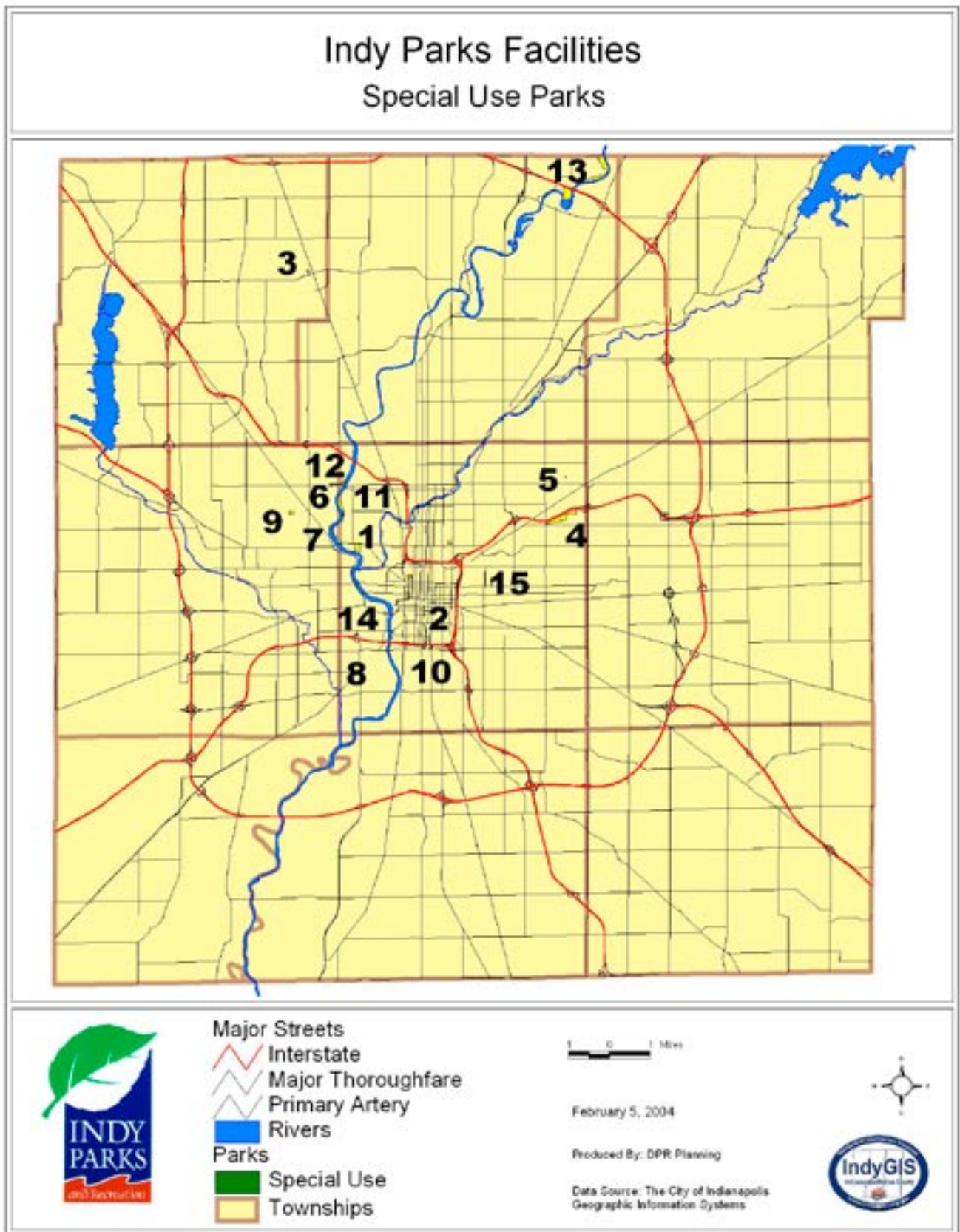


# Facilities and Programs

# Special Use Parks

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Picnic Clusters	Playground	Parking Lots	Trail - Paved (Miles)	Trail - Gravel (Miles)	Trail - Dirt (Miles)	Horseshoes	Pool - Indoor	Water Slide	Water Feature	Special Features
1	Bush Stadium	1501 W 16th St	15.4	Center						1								
2	City Market Plaza	222 E Market St	1.1	Center						1								
3	Crooked Creek Multi-Service Center	2990 Westlane Rd	2.8	Pike	1999		1			1	0.2			1			Pogues Run	Bocce Courts
4	Emerson Flood Basin	2300 N Dequincy Street	43.0	Center	2003					1	1.7				1			
5	Forest Manor Middle School	4501 E 32nd St		Center		Y				1								
6	Iron Skillet	2489 W 30th St	1.4	Wayne	1908	Y				1								
7	Lake Indy	2610 White River Pkwy E Dr	103.0	Center	1916	Y	1			1						White River	Boat Ramp	
8	LaShonna Bates Aquatics Center	1450 S Reisner St	0.2	Center											1	1		Community Garden
9	Mayor's Garden	2350 N Tibbs Ave	5.7	Wayne														
10	Nobel Place	200 E Prospect St	0.9	Center	1912	Y												
11	Riverside Restaurant	3001 White River Pkwy W Dr	1.0	Center	1908	Y				2							White River	
12	Soap Box Derby Hill	2010 W 30th St	8.4	Center	1908	Y				1								
13	Town Run Trail Park	96th St & White River	60.9	Washington	2000					1			7.0				White River, Pond	Mountain Bike Trails
14	Washington Comm. School	2215 W Washington St		Wayne											1			
15	Woodruff Place Esplanades	747 Woodruff Pl Middle Dr	3.9	Center	1962													Fountains







## SPECIAL USE

Special use areas are those spaces and facilities that don't fall within a typical park classification. A major difference between a special use area and other parks is that they usually serve a single purpose whereas typical parks are designed to offer multiple recreation opportunities. Special uses generally fall into three categories:

**Historic/Cultural/Social sites**—unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities. Examples include historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, display gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, public buildings, and amphitheaters.

**Recreation Facilities**—specialized or single purpose facilities. Examples include community centers, senior centers, community theaters, hockey arenas, marinas, golf courses and aquatic parks. Frequently community buildings are located in neighborhood and community parks.

**Outdoor Recreation facilities**—Examples include tennis centers, softball complexes, sports stadiums, skateboard parks, and bark parks.

**SIZE:** Depends upon facilities and activities included. Their diverse character makes it impossible to apply acreage standards.

**SERVICE AREA:** Depends upon facilities and activities included. Typically serves special user groups while a few serve the entire population.

**CHARACTER:** Depends upon facilities and activities included.

**LOCATION CRITERIA:** Recreation need, community interests, the type of facility, and land availability are the primary factors influencing location. Special use facilities should be considered as strategically located community-wide facilities rather than as serving a well-defined neighborhood or areas. The site should be easily accessible from arterial and collector streets, where feasible. It should also be accessible from the light traffic system as well. The location varies from urban setting to remote areas depending upon user and facility requirements.

**SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES:** Where feasible, a geographically central site is optimal. Given the variety of potential special uses, no specific standards are defined for site selection. As with all park types, the site itself should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for its use.

## DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS/

**RECREATION ACTIVITIES:** Since each special use facility is unique, community input through surveys and focus group meetings should be the primary determinant of its development program.

**PROGRAM OFFERINGS:** Special Use Facilities are designed and developed for a specific identified recreational activity and may draw users from throughout the county to access this particular facility. Examples of Special Use Facilities include the Velodrome, BMX and Skate Park, the Rowing Course at Eagle Creek and Soap Box Derby Hill. While priority for programming is given to the use for which the facility was built, many of these facilities are expanding programming in unique ways to maximize the use of the facility by a variety of user groups.





# Golf Courses

## GOLF COURSES

Golf courses provide specialized and land-intensive facilities to an estimated 160,000 Marion County golfers. Indianapolis-Marion County is one of the few communities that has an abundance of golf courses. The residents have access to 32 golf courses in Marion County—13 public golf courses totaling 1,850 acres and 19 private and quasi-public courses. It should be pointed out that the seven surrounding county residents also use Marion County courses. There are an additional 81 golf courses in the 7 surrounding counties, giving a total of 113 golf courses. The trends in the golf industry revolve around environmental aspects of course maintenance. A growing perception is that golf courses are bad for the environment. To enhance the golf industry image, course designers and managers should participate in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses. This program is designed to lessen environmental impacts to wildlife, vegetation and water resources. At this time Smock and Winding River Golf Courses participate in this program.

**SIZE:** Par 3 (18 hole) with average length varies between 600 – 2700 yards. Requires a minimum of 50 – 60 acres. A 9-hole standard course has an average

# Facilities and Programs

length of 2250 yards with a minimum of 50 acres. An 18 hole standard has an average length of 6500 yards and is a minimum of 110 acres. The preferred size is 145 to 180 acres.

**SERVICE AREA:** A 9-hole standard course will accommodate 350 per day where and serve a population of +/- 25,000. An 18 hole will accommodate between 500-550 people per day and serve a population of +/- 50,000.

**CHARACTER:** Ideally the course is designed to include a variety of landforms and water features that enhance the natural lay of the land. In order to provide maximum number of tee times, golf courses must be developed and maintained in the highest quality conditions.

**LOCATION:** Depends on available land and documented need. The golf course may be located in a regional, community or neighborhood park. Ideal driving time should be 1/2-1 hour to reach a course.

**TYPICAL FACILITIES:** Club house, pro-shops, snack bars, banquet rooms, shelters, irrigation, golf cart rentals, cart paths, parking and driving range.



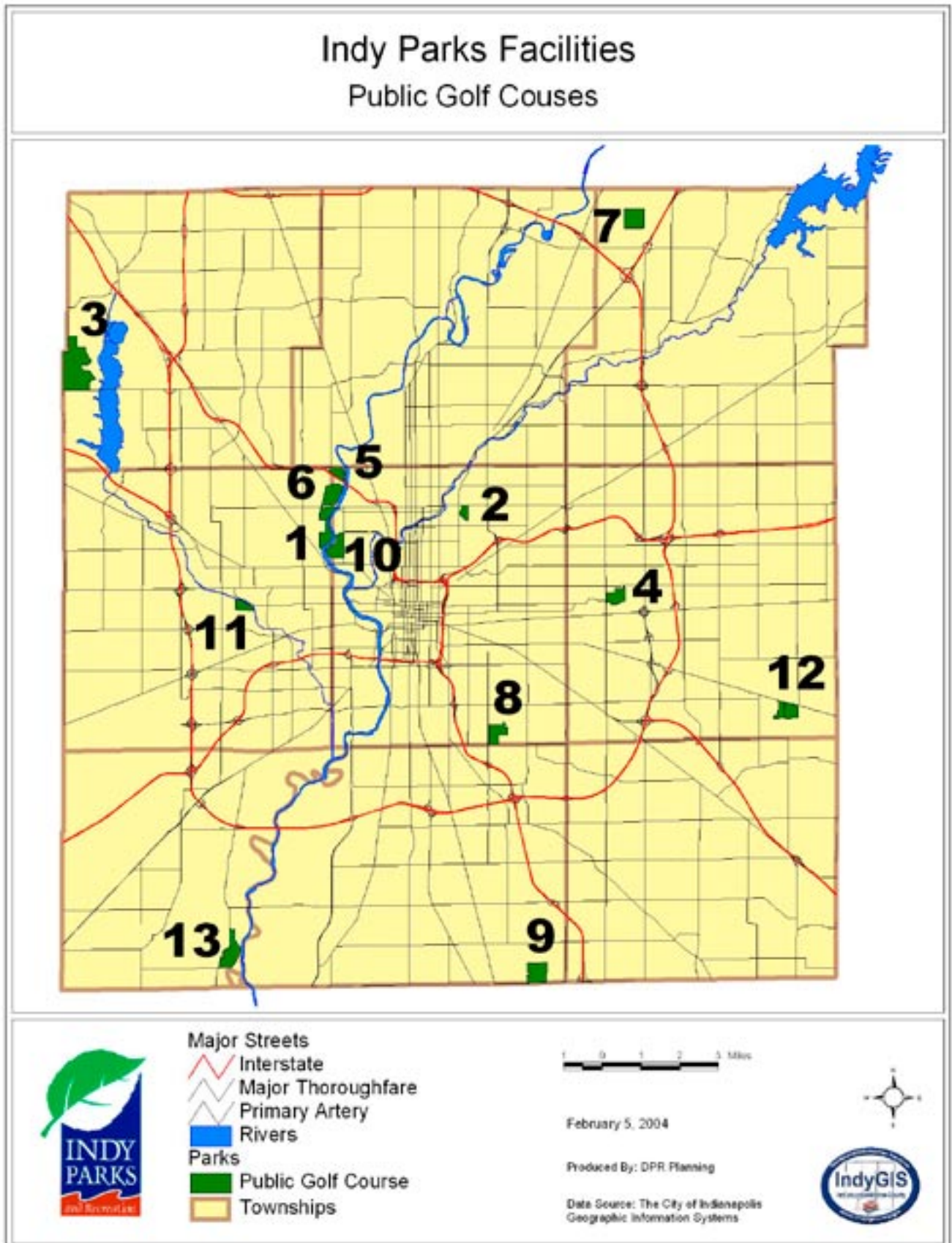
# Facilities and Programs

# Golf Courses

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acres	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	# of Holes	Par	Driving Range
1	Coffin Golf Course	2401 N Cold Spring Rd	150.9	Wayne	1920	Y	18	72	
2	Douglass Golf Course	2901 Dr AJ Brown Ave	41.3	Center	1926		9	34	
3	Eagle Creek Golf Course	8802 W 56th St	487.4	Pike	1975		36	143	Y
4	Pleasant Run Golf Course	601 N Arlington Ave	102.8	Warren	1922	Y	18	72	
5	Riverside Golf Academy	3702 White River Pkwy W Dr	57.8	Center	1995	Y	9	27	Y
6	Riverside Golf Course	3600 White River Pkwy W Dr	138.4	Center	1901	Y	18	72	
7	Sahm Golf Course	6811 E 91st St	167.1	Lawrence	1964		18	70	Y
8	Sarah Shank Golf Course	2607 S Keystone Ave	118.9	Center	1928		18	72	
9	Smock Golf Course	3910 E County Line Rd	159.8	Perry	1975		18	72	Y
10	South Grove Golf Course	1804 Riverside Dr	131.0	Center	1902	Y	18	70	
11	Thatcher Golf Course	4549 W Vermont St	66.0	Wayne	1967		9	35	
12	Whispering Hills Golf Course	10751 Brookville Rd	132.3	Warren	1990		9	34	Y
13	Winding River Golf Course	8327 Mann Rd	175.8	Decatur	1968		18	72	Y







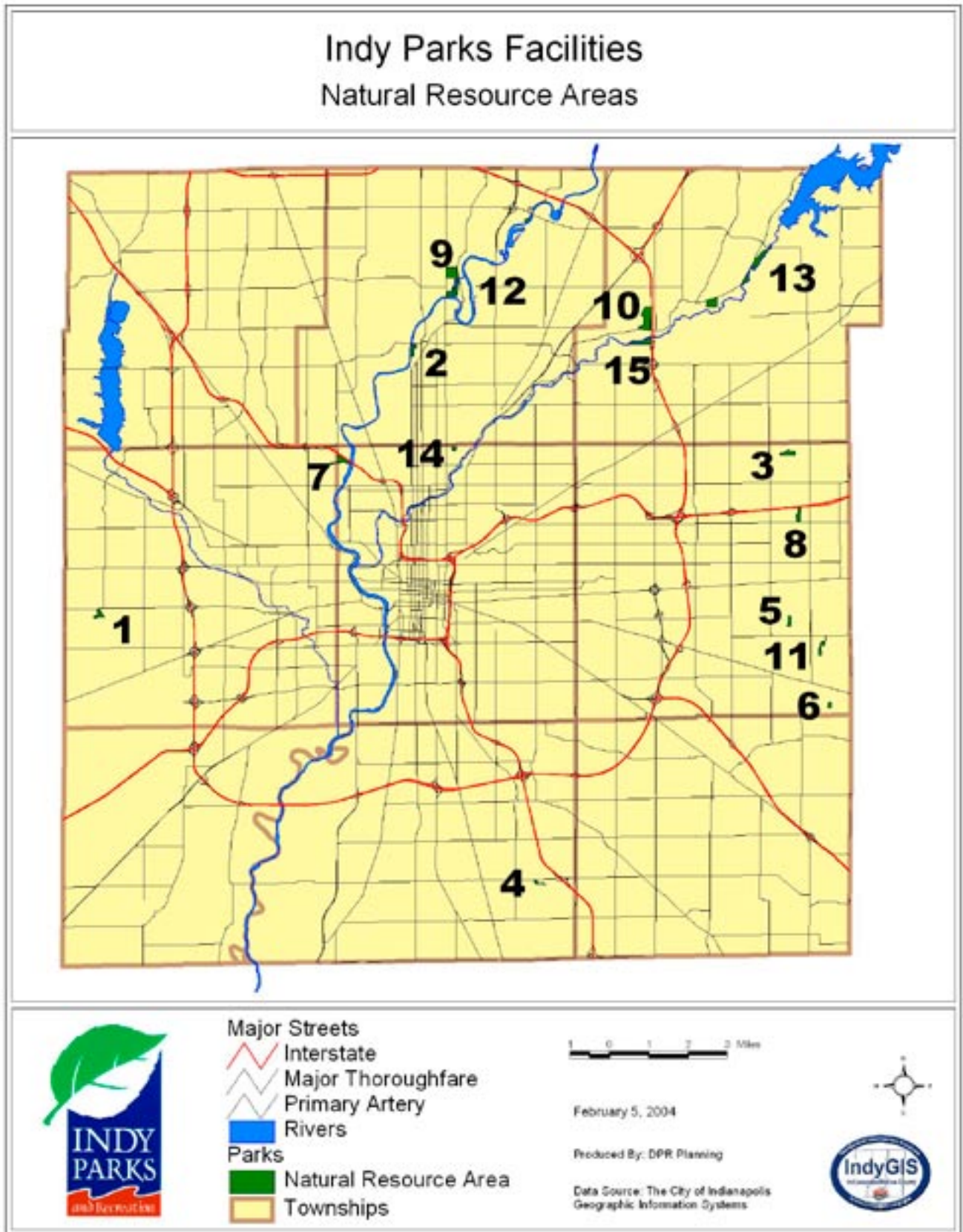


# Facilities and Programs

# Natural Resource Areas

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Parking Lots	Trail - Gravel (Miles)	Trail - Dirt (Miles)	Water Feature
1	Cloverleaf Conservation Area	8355 Rockville Rd	19.2	Wayne	1999						White Lick Creek
2	Friedman Park	5670 Stonehill Dr	17.8	Washington	1982			1		0.7	White River
3	Grassy Creek Park	3600 Governors Ln	24.8	Warren	2000						Grassy Creek, Pond
4	Gray Park	Southport Rd & Sherman Dr	7.8	Perry	1999						Little Buck Creek
5	Iron Gate Conservation Area	545 Crossfield Drive	11.2	Warren	1994						Grassy Creek
6	Kitley Woods	2600 S Kitley Rd	6.6	Warren	1999						
7	Lake Sullivan	3649 Cold Spring Rd	29.1	Center	1898	Y		4			Crooked Creek, Pond
8	Lappin Way	10700 W 21st St	18.5	Warren	1994		1	1		4.9	Grassy Creek, Pond
9	Marott Park	7350 N College Ave	99.2	Washington	1945			1	2.5		White River
10	Skiles Test Nature Park	6828 Fall Creek Rd	80.9	Lawrence	1974						
11	Stable Chase Nature Sanctuary	11301 E Prospect Ave	16.1	Warren	1999						Buck Creek
12	Stamm Park	1616 E. 71st St	1.0	Washington	2003				1.1		Howland Ditch
13	Upper Fall Creek	9545 Fall Creek Rd	62.6	Lawrence	1999						Fall Creek, Pond
14	Watson Road Bird Preserve	900 Watson Rd	4.0	Center	1925						
15	Woolens Gardens	6800 E Fall Creek Pkwy N Dr	43.0	Lawrence	1909	Y					Fall Creek









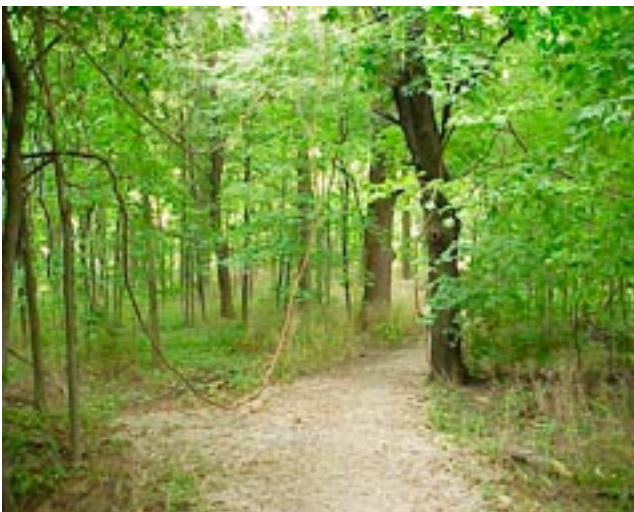
## NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

Natural Resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. These lands consist of:

- Individual sites exhibiting natural resources.
- Lands that are unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential.
- Examples include parcels with steep slopes and natural vegetation, drainageways and ravines, surface water management areas (man-made ponding areas), and utility easements.
- Protected lands, such as wetlands/lowlands and shorelines along waterways, lakes, and ponds.

The intent of the Natural Resource Parks is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible.

Examples of these types of resources include:  
Geologic features  
Functioning ecosystem



Biodiversity maintenance areas  
Aquifer recharge areas  
Watershed  
Protected habitat areas for rare, threatened or endangered species  
Forests/woodlands  
Wildlife habitat areas/corridors  
Open Space

The intertwining of parks, greenways, trails, and natural resource areas is what defines the concept of a city-park, the integration of the human element with that of the natural environment that surrounds them.

**LOCATION CRITERIA:** Resource availability and opportunity are the primary factors determining location.

**SIZE CRITERIA:** As with location, resource availability and opportunity are the primary factors determining size. Through an array of creative real estate strategies, many acres can be preserved as community open lands. Often blighted areas such as abandoned waterfront sites, industrial sites, quarries, and abandoned landfills, have potential to be converted from community liabilities to community open land resources. Reclaimed wetlands and wetland banks fall into this category.

**SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES:** Resource quality is the primary determinant in site selection. Sites that exhibit unique natural resources or remnant landscapes of the region should be of the highest priority. Many of these areas serve as recreation connectors and habitat corridors.

Outlots and un-developable/protected lands should be selected on the basis of enhancing the character of the community, buffering, and providing linkages with other park components protecting natural systems and processes.

## DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS/

**RECREATION ACTIVITY:** Although natural resource areas are resource rather than user based, they can provide some passive recreational opportunities such as nature study and bird watching. They can also function as greenways. Development should be kept to a level that preserves the integrity of the resource.



# Sports Complexes

## SPORTS COMPLEX

The sports complex classification consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities at larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community. This allows for:

- Economies of scale and higher quality facilities
- Improved management /scheduling.
- Improved control of facility use.
- Greater control of negative impacts to neighborhood and community parks, such as overuse, noise, traffic congestion, parking, and domination of facilities by those outside the neighborhood.

Sports complexes should be developed to accommodate the specific needs of user groups and athletic associations based on demands and program offerings. Where possible, school-park sites should be used for youth athletics such as T-ball, soccer, and flag football, to minimize duplication of facilities. Athletic fields are a good example of the multiple use concept in park facility grouping. The fields can be used for a variety of sports so as to accommodate more participants. Also, the facility can be scheduled more heavily than a single use facility. Sports complexes include fields and courts for softball, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, and racquetball.

**LOCATION CRITERIA:** Sports complexes should be viewed as strategically located community-wide facilities rather than serving well-defined neighborhoods or areas. They should be located within reasonable and equal driving distance from populations served. Locating them adjacent to non-residential land uses is preferred. Buffering (topographic breaks, vegetation, etc.) should be used where facilities are located adjacent to residential areas. Identifying-athletic field sites prior to residential development is critical too avoiding long-term conflicts. Sites should be accessible from major thoroughfares. Direct access through residential areas should be avoided. Given that athletic facilities will likely be used for league play and tournaments, access routes from outside the community should also be considered, the site should be easily accessible by way of interconnecting trails, as well.

Projected facility needs on demographic profiles, age-group population forecasts, and participation rates should be used to determine the facilities menu for a

# Facilities and Programs

sports complex. The space requirements should be facility driven to meet projected need. Space for adequate spectator seating should be provided. Consideration should be given to acquiring an additional 20-25% of the total acreage for reserve against unforeseen space needs. To minimize the number of sites required, each site should be a minimum of 40 acres, with 80 to 150 acres being optimal.

**SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES:** The site should exhibit physical characteristics appropriate for developing athletic facilities. Topography and soils are the top priority. Although extreme topographical change should be avoided, some elevation change is desirable to allow for drainage and to give the site some character. Natural vegetation along the perimeter of the site and in non-field areas is desirable in that it adds to the overall visual appeal of the site.

**DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS:** Projected demand for specific types of facilities should be the primary determinant of a sports complexes development program.

Sports complexes are intended for programmed athletic use, such as adult organized softball, etc. and tournaments. Sports complexes increase tourism, drawing both tournament participants and spectators. A menu of potential facilities includes ballfields, soccer fields, football fields, outdoor and indoor skating rinks, tennis courts, play structures, hardcourts, and volleyball courts. Internal trails should provide access to all facilities as well as connection to the pathway system. Group picnic areas and shelters should also be considered. Support facilities include multi-purpose buildings, restrooms, and common space.

Parking lots should be provided as necessary to accommodate participants and spectators. Lights should be used for security, safety, and lighting facilities as appropriate. Field lighting should not be located so as to create a nuisance to nearby residents. Also note that each sports governing body provides specific facility development standards.

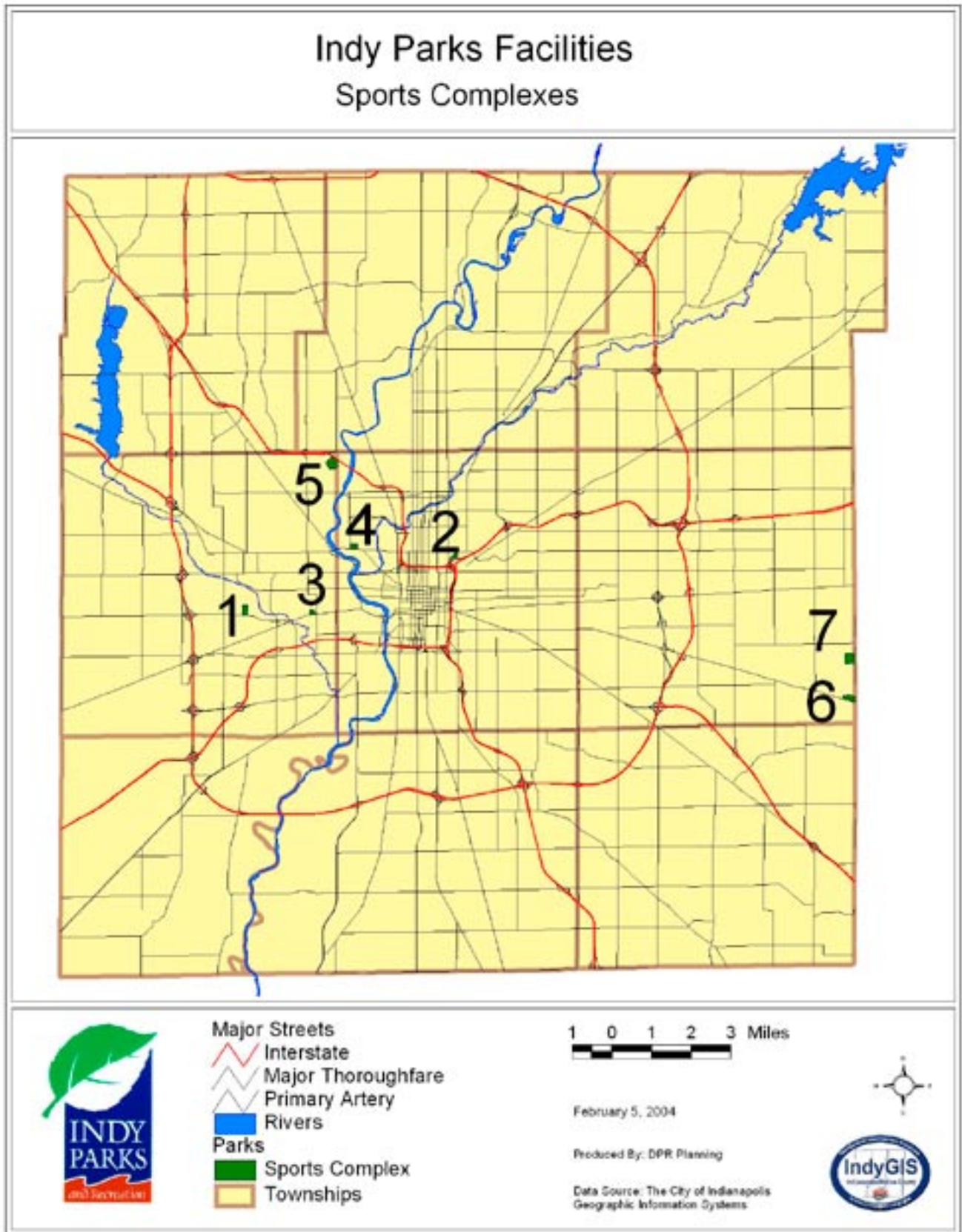
# Facilities and Programs

# Sports Complexes

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Parking Lots	Trail - Paved (Miles)	Baseball	Baseball Lighted	Basketball	Football	Soccer Fields	Softball Lighted	Volleyball Court	Horseshoes	Water Feature	Special Features
1	Chuck Klein Sports Complex	4702 Rockville Rd	21.8	Wayne	1983		1	1					1		3	1	1		
2	Frank and Judy O'Bannon Soccer Fields	1001 E 16th Street	10.5	Center	2003			2	0.7			1		5				Monon Access	
3	Golf Soccer Fields	20 N Warman Ave	8.5	Center	2000		1	1						2					
4	Kuntz Soccer & Sports Complex	1502 W 16th St	15.0	Center	1984		1	1						2					
5	Major Taylor Sports Complex	3700 Cold Spring Rd	41.4	Wayne	1898	Y				5	3							Pond	Skatepark, Velodrome, BMX Track
6	Warren Township Little League	11850 E Brookville Rd	23.7	Warren	1946		1	3							2				
7	Wright Sports Complex	1450 S Carroll Rd	38.9	Warren															









## MONUMENT & MEMORIAL AREAS

**SIZE:** The size of this area is dependent on an appropriate scale of land acreage to communicate the memorial experience.

**SERVICE AREA:** The service area varies, according to the subject matter of the memorial.

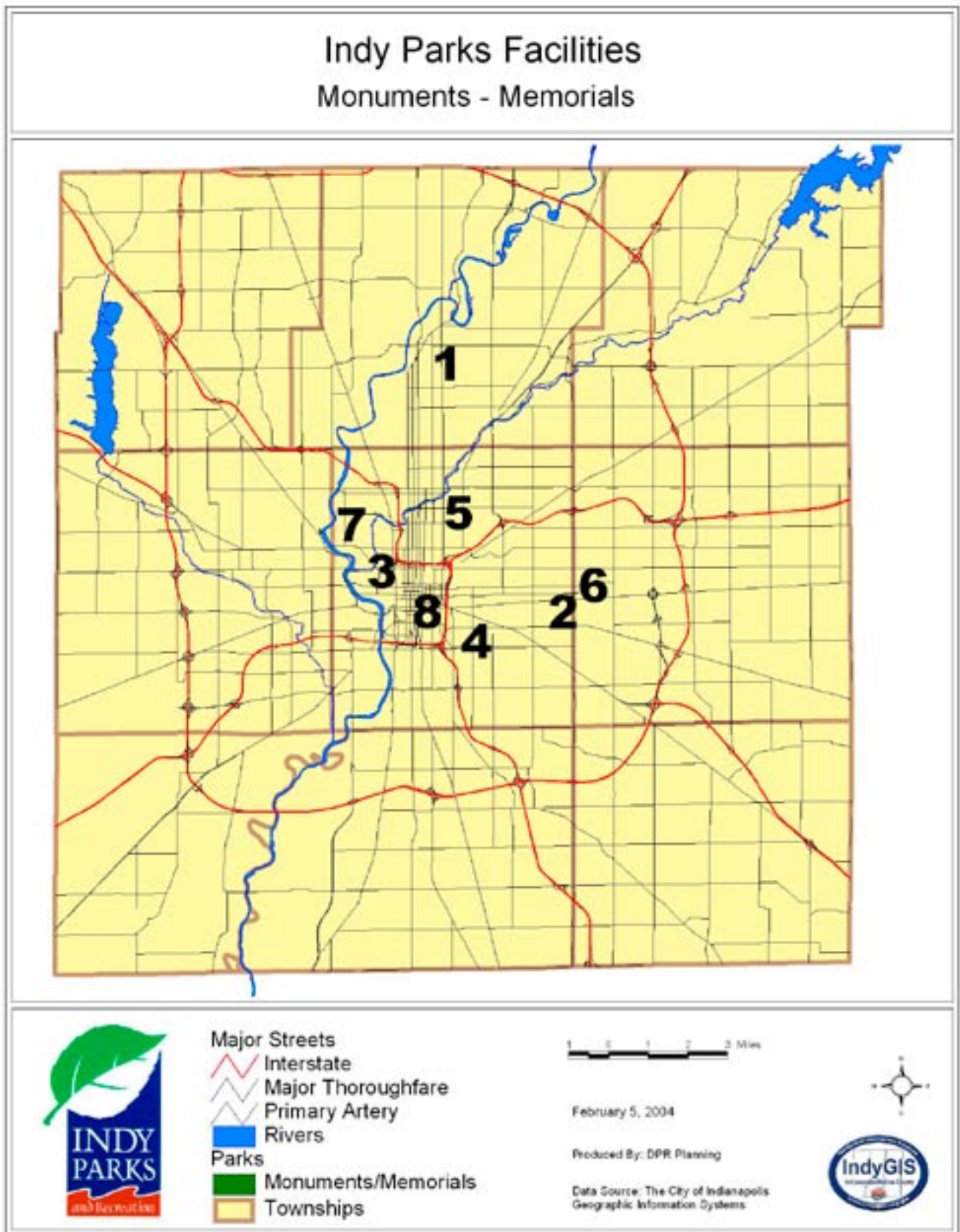
**CHARACTER:** The character of the memorial area also varies depending on the memorial feature and design. Active, or structured recreation activities would probably be inappropriate for most memorial areas, considering they are built responses to a loss of something that was held dear to someone or some group.

**LOCATION:** The location also varies depending on the memorial subject matter, and the instructions or requests of the memorial partner.

**TYPICAL FACILITIES:** Typical facilities vary per location, but are normally restrained and spare.



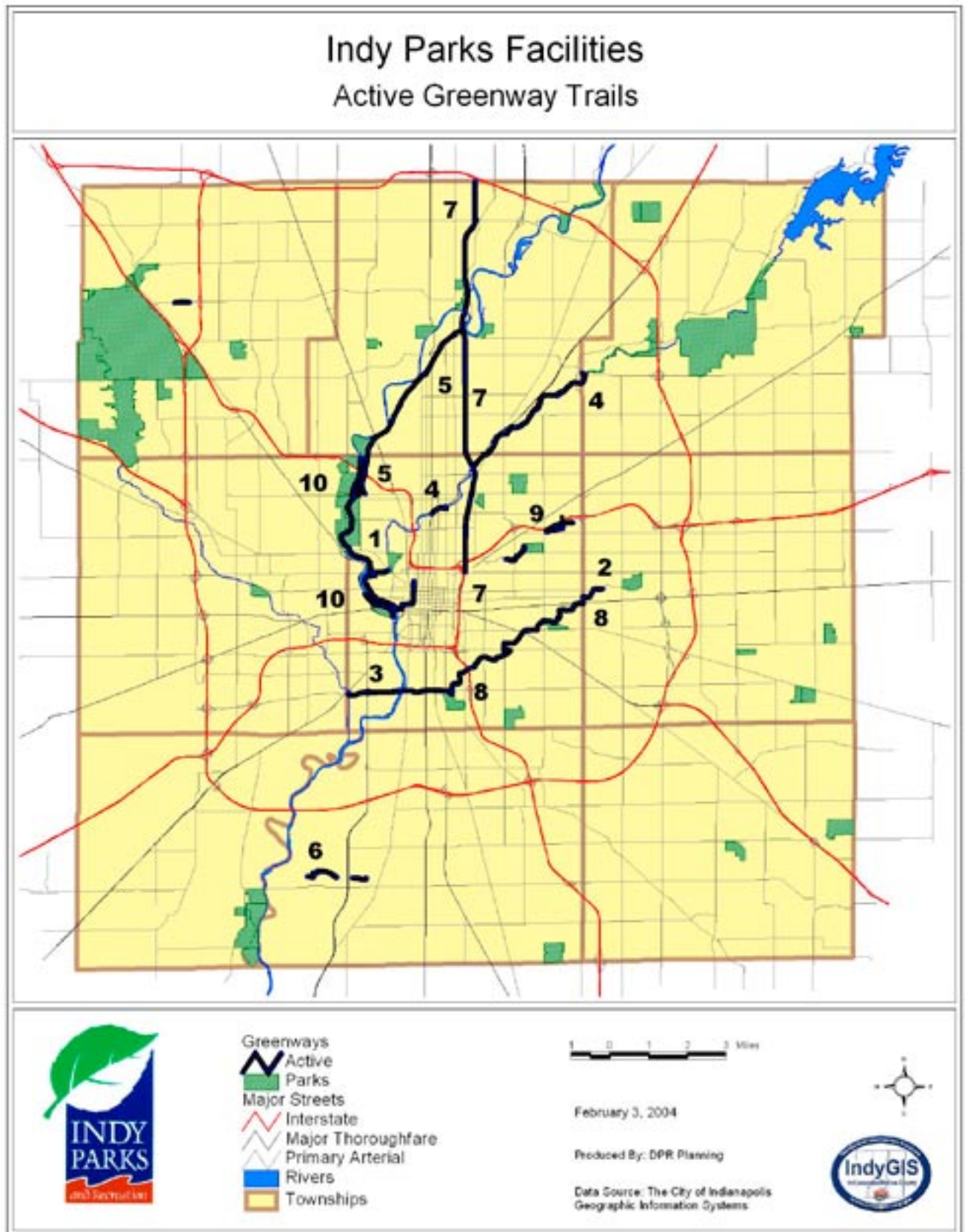
Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Water Feature	Special Features
1	Alice Carter Place	5700 N Meridian Ave	1.8	Washington	1922			Passive Open Space
2	Brown's Corner	5050 E Washington St	3.3	Center		Y	Pleasant Run	Named after 2nd Lt. Hilton Brown
3	Cancer Survivors Park	985 Indiana Ave	1.1	Center	1995			Block Family Gift
4	Fountain Square Fountain	Virginia Ave & Prospect St	0.0	Center	1922			Pioneers Fountain
5	Kessler Park	2501 Pennsylvania St.	1.2	Center	2003	Y	Fall Creek	
6	Kin Hubbard Memorial	5100 E New York St	0.3	Warren		Y	Pleasant Run	Dedicated to Kin Hubbard Cartoonist
7	Memorial Grove	2000 Cold Spring Rd	3.8	Wayne	1908	Y	White River	Civil & WWII War Memorial
8	Presidential Place	301 E Washington St	0.6	Center	1991			Urban Plaza



Map Number	Greenway Name	Extents	Acreage	Township	National Historic Register	Miles Complete	Miles Planned	Surface
1	Burdal Parkway Medians	Riverside E Drive to Watkins Park	6.6	Center	Y			Turf
2	Ellenberger Parkway	10th Street to St Clair Street	4.3	Warren	Y		0.3	Turf
3	Eagle Creek Trail	56th Street to Raymond Street	4.1	Center, Pike, Wayne	Portions	2.8	13.5	Asphalt
4	Fall Creek Parkway	Geist Reservoir to White River	276.7	Center, Lawrence, Washington	Y	5.2	12.0	Asphalt
5	Central Canal Towpath	Broad Ripple to Downtown Canal	131.6	Center, Washington	Portions	5.7	2.4	Gravel
6	Little Buck Creek Trail	Bluff Road to White River	1.9	Perry		1.4	2.1	Asphalt
7	Monon Trail	96th Street to 10th Street	56.9	Center, Washington		10.4		Asphalt
8	Pleasant Run Parkway	Shadeland Avenue to White River	113.5	Center, Warren	Y	6.3	5.0	Asphalt
9	Pogues Run Trail	Massachusetts Avenue to New York Street	in parks	Center, Warren	Y	2.4	4.1	Asphalt, Gravel
10	White River Parkway	96th Street to Southwestway Park	112.5	Center, Decatur, Perry, Washington, Wayne	Portions	6.5	25.8	Asphalt







## GREENWAYS

Greenways serve a number of important functions:

- They tie park components together to form a cohesive park, recreation, and open space system.
- They emphasize harmony with the natural environment.
- They allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community.
- They provide people with a resource based outdoor recreational opportunity and experience.
- They can enhance property values.

Greenways and natural resource areas have much in common. Both preserve natural resources, and mediate between larger habitat areas, open space, and corridors for wildlife. The primary distinction between the two is that greenways emphasize use (i.e. park trail) to a greater extent than natural resource areas.

The Indianapolis Greenways System, when fully constructed as planned in 2002, will span 175 miles including 150 miles of 8-12 foot-wide paved or limestone trails. They will link more than 125 destinations. The current plan follows 1 river, 12 streams, 3 historic rail corridors, and the Central Canal. The plan will be updated in the near future.

**LOCATION CRITERIA:** Land availability and opportunity are the primary factors determining location. “Natural” greenways follow suitable natural resource areas. “Man-made” greenways are corridors that are built as part of development projects or during renovation of old development areas. Man-made greenways include residential subdivisions, revitalized river fronts, abandoned railroad beds, old industrial sites, safe powerline right-of-way, pipeline easements, collector parkway rights-of-way, etc. Some boulevards and many parkways can also be considered man-made greenways if they exhibit a park-like quality and provide off-street trail opportunities. Since greenways are the preferred way to get people from their homes and into parks, adjacency to development areas and parks is important. The location of greenways is integral to the trail system plan and can also be considered light traffic facilities.

**CORRIDOR WIDTH CRITERIA:** As with location, resource availability and opportunity are the pri-

mary factors determining the width of the greenway corridor. Although corridor width can be as little as 25 feet in a subdivision, 50 feet is usually considered the minimum. Widths over 200 feet are considered optimal.

**SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES:** Resource availability in conjunction with the trail system plan are the primary determinants when it comes to selecting land for greenways. Natural corridors are most desirable, but man-made corridors can also be appealing if designed properly.

Greenways can be developed for a number of different modes of recreational travel. Most notable are hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling, and in-line skating. They can also be developed for cross-country skiing and horseback riding. Canoeing is another possibility, where the greenway includes a navigable creek or stream. In a boulevard or parkway setting, automobiles can be accommodated.





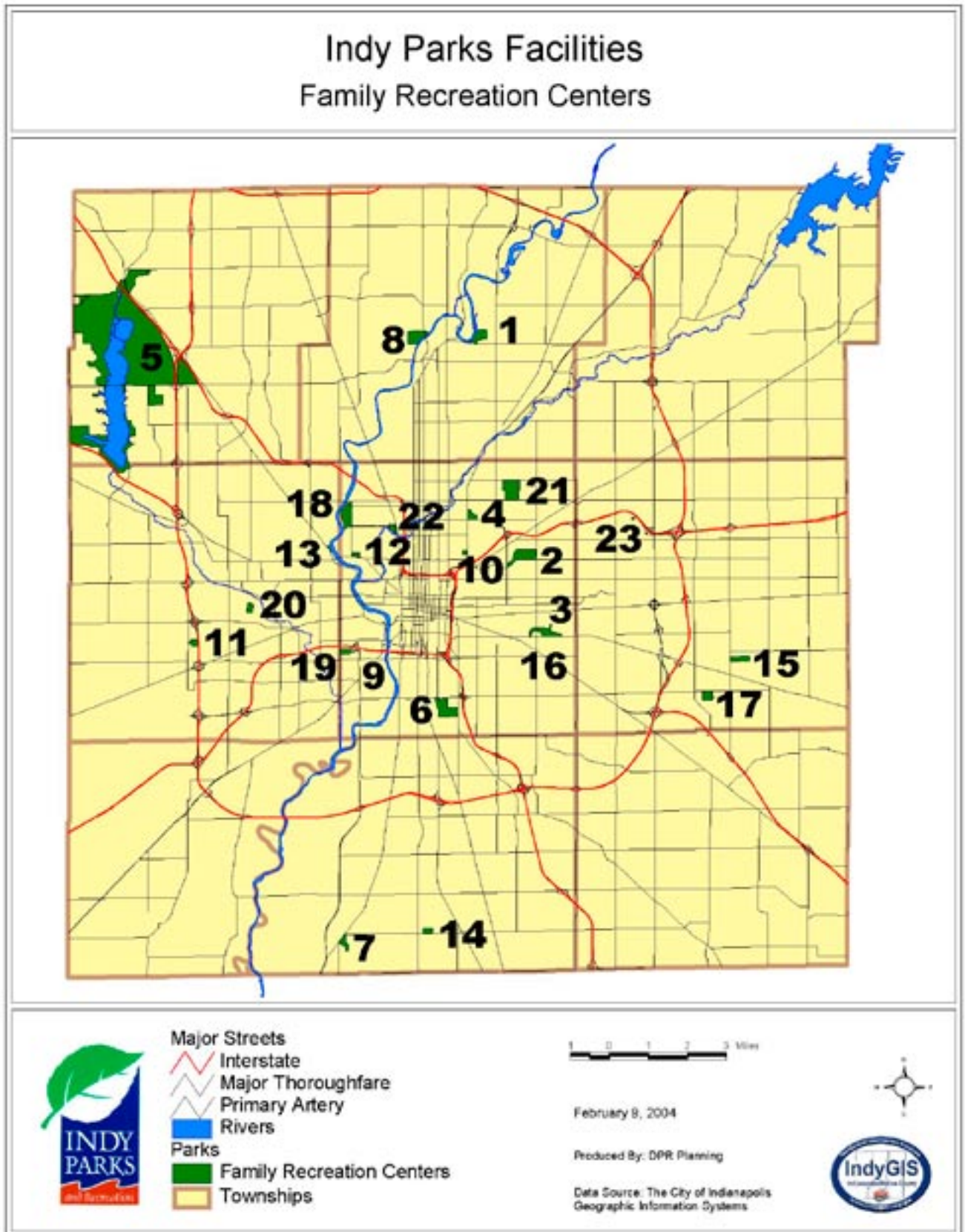




# Facilities and Programs

# Recreation Centers

Map Number	Park Name	Address	Park Acres	Township	National Historic Register	Family Center	Nature Center	Auditorium	Boxing Area	Ceramic Room/Kiln	Classroom - Meeting Room	Computer Lab	Dance Room	Game Room	Kitchen - Kitchenette	Library	Multi-Use Gymnasium	Rental Retreat Facility	Weight Room - Fitness Room
1	Broad Ripple Park	1500 Broad Ripple Ave	56.2	Washington		1					x	x	x						
2	Brookside Park	3500 Brookside Pkwy S Dr	99.6	Center	Y	1		x			x			x	x				
3	Christian Park	4125 English Ave	73.2	Center	Y	1				x	x	x							
4	Douglass Park	1425 E 25th St	27.6	Center		1					x			x	x				
5	Eagle Creek Park	7840 W 56th St	4279.0	Pike			1				x							x	
6	Garfield Park	2450 S Shelby St	122.9	Center	Y	1					x			x	x			x	
7	Glens Valley Nature Park	8015 Bluff Rd	30.0	Perry			1				x				x			x	
8	Holiday Park	6349 Spring Mill Rd	95.3	Washington			1	x			x				x	x			
9	IPS # 47 Community Center	777 White River Pkwy. W Drive	-	Center		1											x		
10	JTV Hill Park	1806 N Columbia Ave	9.8	Center		1								x	x				
11	Kramert Park	605 S High School Rd	21.8	Wayne		1					x				x				x
12	Kuntz Soccer Stadium	1502 W 16th St	15.0	Center							x				x				
13	Municipal Gardens	1831 N Lafayette Rd	5.1	Wayne	Y	1					x	x			x				
14	Perry Park	451 E Stop 11 Rd	21.0	Perry							x								
15	Post Road Community Park	1313 S Post Rd	40.9	Warren							x				x				
16	Pride Park	1229 S Vandeman St	0.5	Center		1					x				x				
17	Raymond Park - Indy Island	8300 E Raymond St	35.6	Warren							x								
18	Riverside Park	2420 N Riverside E Dr	95.7	Center	Y	1		x		x	x			x			x		x
19	Rhodius Park	1001 S Belmont St	25.4	Center	Y	1					x						x		
20	Thatcher Park	4649 W Vermont St	22.1	Wayne		1				x	x	x		x	x		x		
21	Washington Park	2801 E 30th St	128.1	Center		1				x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x
22	Watkins Park	2360 Dr M L King Jr Dr	19.1	Center	Y	1					x	x		x	x		x		
23	Windsor Village Park	2501 N Kenyon Ave	3.2	Warren		1					x								



## FAMILY RECREATION CENTERS

Recreation Centers are intended to provide indoor leisure facilities and programs at a reasonable cost. Recreation centers should also serve as meeting facilities for local social gatherings and other public events. Family Recreation Centers are designed to be a hub of recreational activity.

**SIZE:** Depends on nature of facility and service area.

**SERVICE AREA:** Several neighborhoods.

**CHARACTER:** Should provide for intensive use, offering leisure facilities and programs to all age groups. Organized activities must be tailored to the needs of the service area and supervised by professionally trained personnel.

**LOCATION:** Regional or Community Parks.

## TYPICAL FACILITIES:

1. Gym with showers and lockers
2. Quiet meeting rooms and classrooms
3. Swimming pool
4. Kitchenette facilities
5. Exercise room
6. Game Room
7. Library or Distance Learning Facilities

**PROGRAM OFFERINGS:** Family Centers often consist of gyms, fitness and weight rooms, classrooms, computer labs, game rooms, libraries and multi-use areas that can provide a wide diversity of program opportunities for a large volume of users. Some Family Centers may also offer indoor or outdoor aquatic facilities. Family Centers have professional recreation management and programming staff that provide direct programming as well as partnering with other agencies, neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations and schools to maximize program services available to the public.





# Aquatic Centers

# Facilities and Programs

## AQUATIC CENTERS AND SWIMMING POOLS

Americans love to swim and the residents of Indianapolis are no exception. A variety of surveys and studies conducted throughout the nation have confirmed the importance of swimming as a leisure activity. The trend today is to develop more family aquatic centers that offer families, adults, children and the physically challenged the opportunity to become active participants at our swimming facilities. Indy Parks currently manages 22 pools that are open to the public.

**SIZE:** Depends on nature of facility and service area.

**SERVICE AREA:** Depends on nature of facility and service area. An area with a minimum population of 25,000 has been used for traditional type pools. A family aquatic center may serve a population of 40,000 to 50,000.

**CHARACTER:** Should provide a variety of water-related recreation opportunities. Sun angles, site visibility, turf and landscape areas; large deck surfaces, adequate parking and connections to other park and school facilities are important considerations.

**LOCATION:** Depends on nature of facility and service area. Typically found in regional and community parks. Should be easily accessible, yet visually buffered from residential areas.

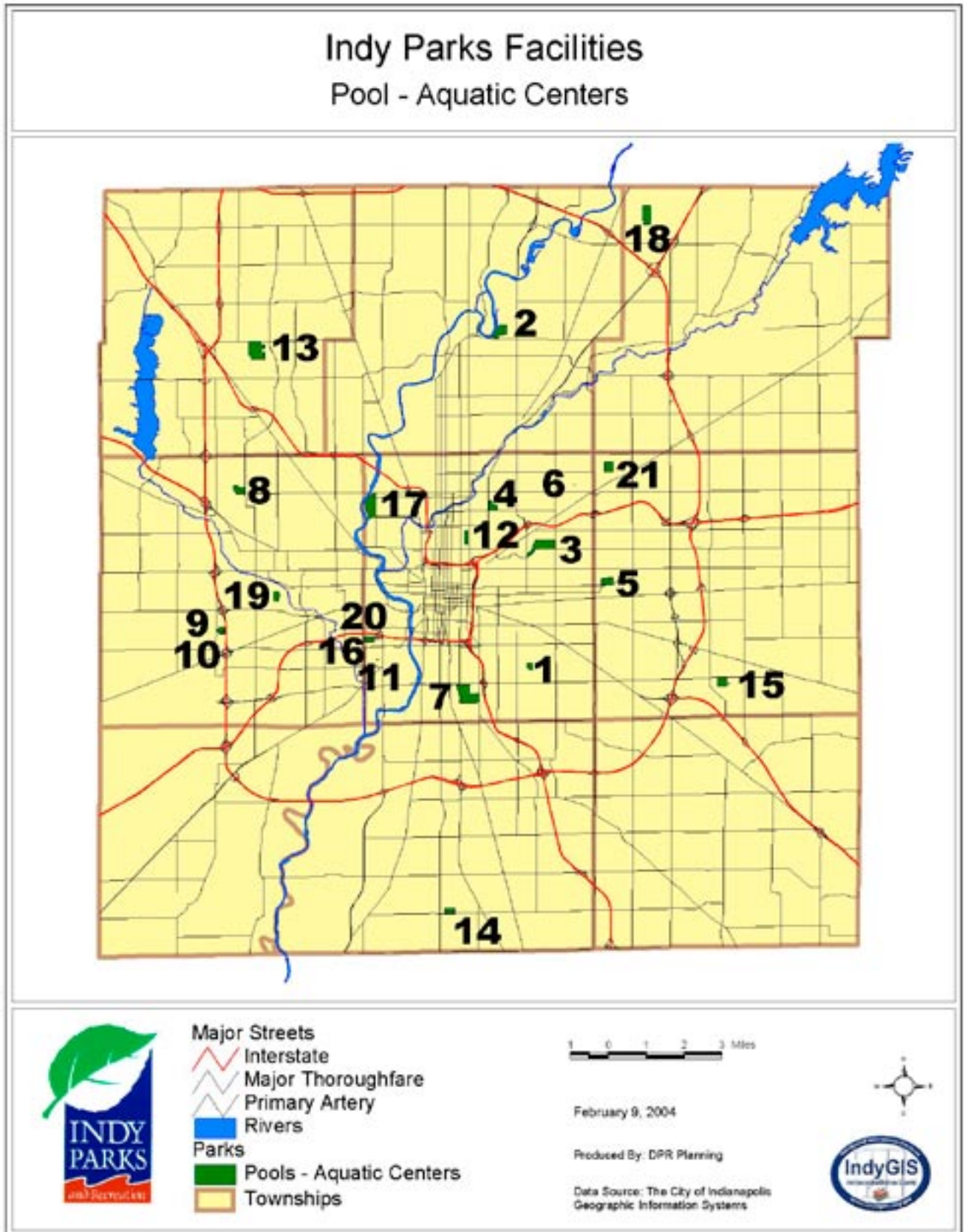
**TYPICAL FACILITIES:** Depends on nature of facility, zero depth pool, water playground, water flume slide, open and lap swimming lanes, a lazy river, sunny and shady areas and concession stand.



Map Number	Park Name	Address	Township	Year Built or Renovated	Deck Size (Sq. Ft.)	Bather Load (persons)	Volume of Water (gallons)	Pool - Indoor	Pool - Outdoor	Water Slide	Water Play Area	Diving Well	Concession Area	Zero Depth Entry
1	Bethel Park	2945 E Minnesota St	Center	1998	15000	500	193,680		1	1	1			1
2	Broad Ripple Park	1500 Broad Ripple Ave	Washington	1984	22000	300	203,760		1	1	1		1	
3	Brookside Park	3500 Brookside Pkwy S Dr	Center	1992	22000	500	478,800		1	1	1	1	1	1
4	Douglass Park	1425 E 25th St	Center	1966	16000	500	410,438		1		1	1		
5	Ellenberger Park	5301 E St Clair St	Warren	1973	18000	500	447,188		1			1		
6	Forest Manor Middle School	4501 E 32nd St	Center	2001	indoor	200	101,250	1						
7	Garfield Park	2450 S Shelby St	Center	1997	24000	400	173,860		1	2	1		1	1
8	Gustafson Park	3110 Moller Rd	Wayne	1966	23000	500	410,438		1			1		
9	Krannert Park - Outdoor Pool	605 S High School Rd	Wayne	1992	18000	500	171,990		1	1	1		1	1
10	Krannert Park - Indoor Pool	605 S High School Rd	Wayne	1959	indoor	100	114,188	1				1		
11	LaShonna Bates Aquatics Center	1450 S Reisner St	Center	1998	indoor	150	64,800	1		1	1			1
12	Martin Luther King Park	1702 N Broadway Ave	Center	1993	29000	300	281,010		1		1			1
13	Northwestway Park	5253 W 62nd St	Pike	1999	28000	400	137,000		1	2	1		1	1
14	Perry Park	451 E Stop 11 Rd	Perry	1993	35000	500	132,267		1	2	1		1	1
15	Raymond Park - Indy Island	8300 E Raymond St	Warren	1995	indoor	200	90,500	1		1	1		1	1
16	Rhodius Park	1001 S Belmont St	Center	1968	30000	600	459,360		1			1		
17	Riverside Park	2420 N Riverside E Dr	Center	1995	18000	300	84,869		1	2	1		1	1
18	Sahm Park	6801 E 91st St	Lawrence	1999	37000	600	600,000		1	3	1		1	1
19	Thatcher Park	4649 W Vermont St	Wayne	1973	indoor	150	172,328	1				1		
20	Washington Comm. School	2215 W Washington St	Wayne	2001	indoor	300	200,000	1				1		
21	Wes Montgomery Park	3400 N Hawthorne Ln	Warren	1990	12000	200	168,563		1		1	1		1
22	Willard Park	1901 E Washington St	Center	2003	19000	200	177,150		1	1	1	1		





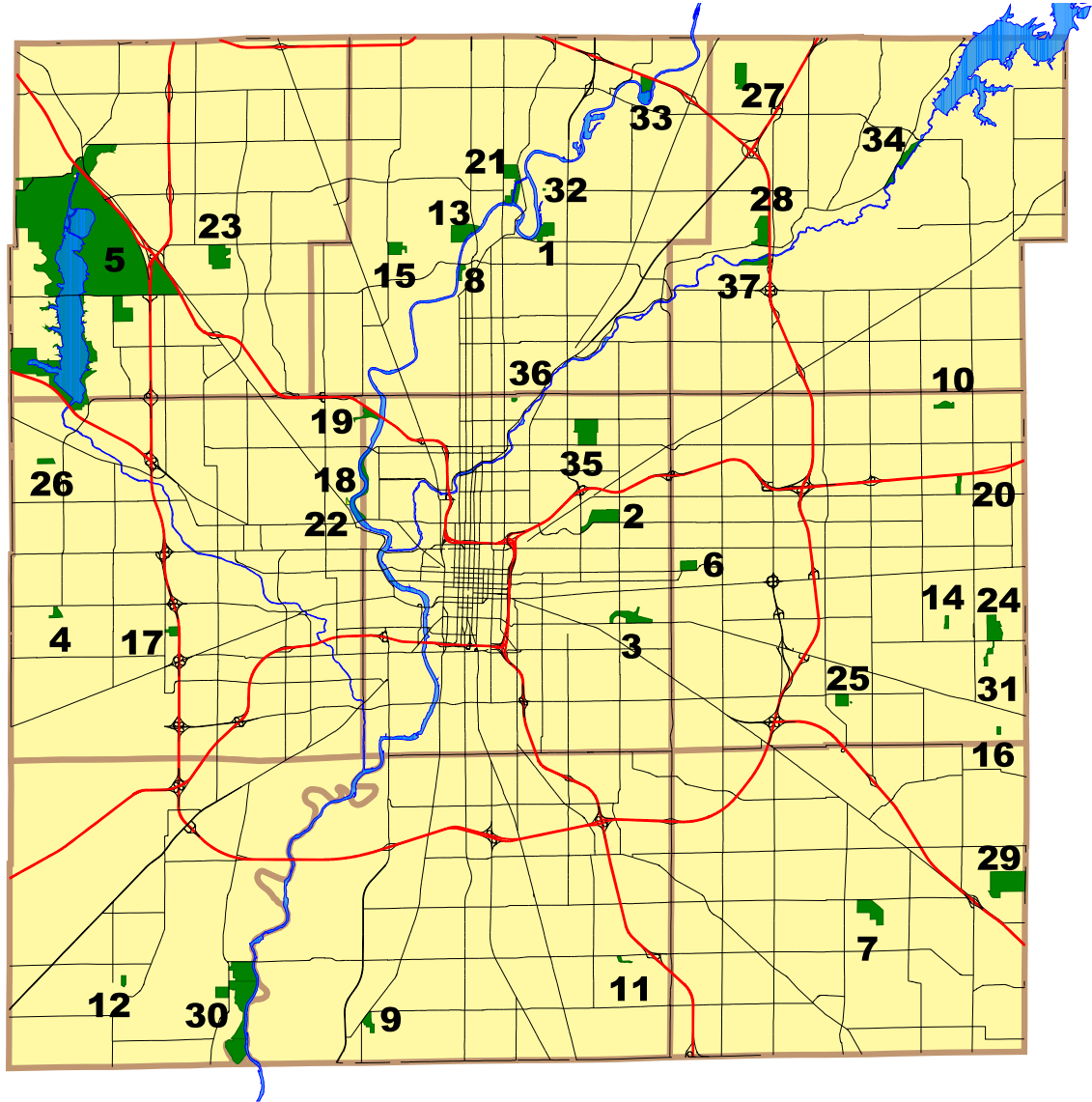




Map Number	Park Name	Address	Acreage	Township	Year Acquired	National Historic Register	Picnic Shelters	Parking Lots	Trail - Paved (Miles)	Trail - Gravel (Miles)	Trail - Dirt (Miles)	Water Feature
1	Broad Ripple Park	1500 Broad Ripple Avenue	56.2	Washington	1946		2	5		1	0.5	White River
2	Brookside Park	3500 Brookside Pkwy S Drive	99.6	Center	1898	Y	3	7				Pogues Run
3	Christian Park	4125 English Avenue	73.2	Center	1921	Y	2	6	1			Pleasant Run
4	Cloverleaf Conservation Area	8355 Rockville Rd	19.2	Wayne	1999							White Lick Creek
5	Eagle Creek Park	7840 W 56th Street	4279	Pike	1962		16	14	2.3	many	11.6	Eagle Creek Reservoir
6	Ellenberger Park	5301 E St. Clair Street	37.4	Warren	1911	Y	1	3		1.3		Pleasant Run
7	Franklin Township Community Park	8801 E Edgewood Avenue	96.8	Franklin	1970		1	1	1	1	2.2	Wildcat Brook, Pond
8	Friedman Park	5670 Stonehill Dr	17.8	Washington	1982			1			0.7	White River
9	Glenn's Valley Park	8015 Bluff Road	30	Perry	1991			2		1		
10	Grassy Creek Park	3600 Governors Ln	24.8	Warren	2000							Grassy Creek, Pond
11	Gray Park	Southport Rd & Sherman Dr	7.8	Perry	1999							Little Buck Creek
12	Griffin Woods	7525 Mendenhall Road	12	Decatur	2004							
13	Holiday Park	6349 Spring Mill Road	95.3	Washington	1916		1	3		2.3	0.8	White River
14	Iron Gate Conservation Area	545 Crossfield Drive	11.2	Warren	1994							Grassy Creek
15	Juan Solomon Park	6100 Grendview Drive	44.1	Washington	1971		2	1		1.4		Crooked Creek
16	Kitley Woods	2600 S Kitley Rd	6.6	Warren	1999							
17	Krannert Park	605 S High School Road	21.8	Wayne	1972		2	3	0.4	0.6		Pond
18	Lake Indy	2610 White River Parkway E Dr	103	Center	1916	Y	1	1				White River
19	Lake Sullivan	3649 Cold Spring Rd	29.1	Center	1898	Y		4				Crooked Creek, Pond
20	Lappin Park	10700 W 21st St	18.5	Warren	1994							Grassy Creek, Pond
21	Marott Park	7350 N College Ave	99.2	Washington	1945		1	1			4.9	White River
22	Memorial Grove	2000 Cold Springs Road	3.8	Wayne	1908	Y						White River
23	Northwestway Park	5253 W 62nd Street	110	Pike	1957		2	5		0.4		Little Eagle Creek
24	Paul Ruster Park	11300 E Prospect Street	82.1	Warren	1970		2	1			1.6	Buck Creek, Pond
25	Raymond Park	8300 Raymond Street	35.6	Warren	1971			1		0.5		
26	Robey Park	2800 S Bridgeport Road	20.4	Wayne	1972			1		0.7		
27	Sahm Park	6801 E 91st Street	66.3	Lawrence	1961		4	2	0.4		1.5	
28	Skiles Test Nature Park	6828 Fall Creek Rd	80.9	Lawrence	1974			1		2.5		
29	Southeastway Park	5824 S Carroll Road	186	Franklin	1961		6	5	1.4		2	Buck Creek, Pond
30	Southwestway Park	8400 Mann Road		Decatur	1961		1	2			7.1	White River
31	Stable Chase Nature Sanctuary	11301 E Prospect Ave	16.1	Warren	1999							Buck Creek
32	Stamm Park	1616 E. 71st St	1.0	Washington	2003							Howland Ditch
33	Town Run Trail Park South	96th Street & White River	60.9	Washington	2000			1			7.0	White River, Pond
34	Upper Fall Creek	9545 Fall Creek Rd	62.6	Lawrence	1999					1.1		Fall Creek, Pond
35	Washington Park	2801 W 30th Street	128	Center	1923		3	9	2.3	0.5		Pond
36	Watson Road Bird Preserve	900 Watson Rd	4.0	Center	1925							
37	Woolens Gardens	6800 E Fall Creek Pkwy N Dr	43.0	Lawrence	1909	Y						Fall Creek

## Indy Parks Facilities

### Environmental Education Parks



Major Streets

Interstates

Major Thoroughfares

Primary Arterial Streets

Rivers

Environmental Education Parks

Townships

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

April 7, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PARKS

Environmental Education Parks are sites, which offer a diversity of habitats. They can be Regional, Community, Neighborhood or other parks. These parks provide an opportunity for naturalists to interpret the past present and future of the land and its occupants. Environmental parks typically include:

- Natural habitats consisting of but not limited to; fields, forest, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, prairies, wetlands, etc.
- Areas of cultural significance.
- Places offering an opportunity for visitors to experience the feeling of being away from the hustle and bustle of city life and in the out-of-doors.
- Open areas without any significant of development present.

Environmental parks provide a place for naturalist staff to educate the families, school groups and the general public on the complex working of the ecosystem. Interpretive naturalists understand the complex workings of a natural community and refine it into simple terms for visitors to understand. It is our hope that through an understanding of the natural environment there will be respect for and protection of the natural habitats in our community.

**LOCATION CRITERIA:** Environmental Education Parks should scattered throughout the entire park system. Providing places for visitors to experience the natural environment close to home.

**SIZE:** The larger and more diverse the natural area the better for an environmental park. Birds and wildlife need large unfragmented areas to establish territory, raise their young and continue the species. We need to set-aside areas of greenspace and undeveloped parkland for Indiana flora and fauna. By leaving these areas in a natural state we are increasing the quality of life for Marion County residents.

Smaller tracts of land and areas where traditional recreation is taking place can also offer an opportunity for environmental education and interpretation. Smaller parks and parks adjacent to schools offer opportunities for outreach interpretation and environmental enhancement.

**SITE SELECTION GUIDELINES:** The quality of the resource is a primary guideline for an environmental park. An environmental park should be rich in natural resources and species diversity or have the potential to be enhanced with best management practices to attract new populations of plants and animals. The habitat needs to be monitored for invasion of invasive species of plants and animals. Environmental parks can be in areas that buffer existing recreational activities or connect to greenways or existing park properties.

The establishment of environmental parks should coincide with the management of our natural resource areas. These areas offer prime opportunities for natural history interpretation and environmental education. Small parks in densely populated areas of the city offer the opportunity to bring knowledge of our natural resources closer to the public.

### DEVELOPMENTAL PARAMETERS/

**RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Recreational development taking place in environmental parks and areas should be non-consumptive in nature. Non-consumptive recreation refers to recreation that does not alter the natural landscape and keeps paving to a minimum. Recreational activities such as hiking, biking, birding, canoeing, sailing, and photography are forms of recreation that do not consume or alter the land. Development should be kept to a minimum.







# Facilities and Programs

## DEVELOPMENT PARAMETERS/ RECREATION ACTIVITIES

**Regional and Community Parks** – The recreational needs of the community and park user groups are gathered through a variety of sources to influence the development and recreational programming that take place at each Park. Community and Regional Parks have Volunteer Park Advisory Councils that help to research and prioritize the needs for each park. In addition to Park Advisory Councils, neighborhood organizations and organized user groups are also involved in the process. For capital projects separate public meetings are held to facilitate the presentation of information and the gathering of input from the community. Regional and Community Parks are generally appropriate for both passive and active recreational pursuits and incorporate both drop-in and scheduled use of facilities. These parks may accommodate larger special events, athletic events or cultural activities that draw large crowds. Programming is provided by internal recreational staff, contractors, and partners. Parking is designed to accommodate most users arriving by car.

**Neighborhood Parks**- The recreational needs of the surrounding community are gathered through public input from neighborhood organizations, umbrella organizations and local residents. Recreational programming is primarily provided by local neighborhood or faith-based organizations and facilitated by Indy Parks and Recreation Neighborhood Park staff. The development and programming of Neighborhood Parks should be limited to activities that are appropriate and compatible with the neighborhood and its infrastructure. A balance of active and passive recreational opportunities are provided for at most neighborhood parks. Parking areas are limited to 7-10 spaces based on most users being within walking distance. This also reserves the majority of park land for recreational use.

**Mini Parks** – The mini park is designed to offer green space in locations where yards are limited or in areas not served by any other park. They are established when larger acreage is unavailable, particularly in densely populated areas. Due to the high maintenance expense relative to its size or service capacity, Mini Parks are only established when neighborhood organizations enter into long-term partnerships to assist with the maintenance of the park. Programming

of mini parks is limited to self directed passive recreation serving one or two user groups.

## RECREATION PROGRAM CORE SERVICES

The identified Core Programs and Services for Indy Parks and Recreation are:

- Art and Cultural
- Aquatics
- Environmental Education
- Facility Rental/Special Use
- Self Enrichment
- Senior Services
- Sports & Fitness
- Therapeutic and Inclusion Services

These core service areas have been developed over time as areas of identified recreational need. The core services are program types that the department has the resources and expertise to provide, and where the market for these services is not already fully met by other service providers.

Core program services are delivered to the public through the nine divisions within Indy Parks and Recreation. Programs and services may be offered to the public through a variety of formats including:

**Self-directed** – facilities, equipment or natural space are provided to the community and the individual takes responsibility for organizing their own activity. Examples may include walking, cycling, playground use, fishing, boating, picnicking, or use of athletic courts or fields.

**Direct Leadership** – department recreational staff plan, organize and deliver the program to the participants in either a registered or drop-in program. Examples include day camps, swim lessons, basketball leagues, nature hikes, workshop and classes.

**Contracted Instructor** – department contracts the services of a specialized recreational instructor to conduct classes, workshops or programs for the public. This may be used when internal staff do not have the needed skills and expertise for the program. Examples include music instruction, aerobic classes, ball room dancing classes, art classes, and public performances.

**Partnerships** – a collaborative agreement is negoti-

ated between the department and another organization who shares common mission and goals. The partner will work closely with park staff to offer programs and services that the community is in need of. Partnerships are used to maximize the use of community resources for the provision of recreational opportunities. Examples include partnerships with schools, youth services, faith-based and neighborhood organizations. The department and the partner will each bring specific resources to contribute to the program and each entity also derives specific results from the program.

Program need is identified through the input of public participation, evaluation of existing programming, and research into best practices and trends in recreation.

Public input is gathered from Park Advisory Councils, user surveys, neighborhood associations, public meetings and constituent feedback.

As part of the master planning process an inventory and evaluation of recreational opportunities in the county was recorded. In addition, cities of similar size and demographics were interviewed on their current program offerings to gain a basis for comparison. The following charts and maps represent the information from these inquiries.

## TRENDS IN RECREATION PROGRAMS

**Adult and Youth Sports** – Indy Parks and Recreation acts as both a direct provider and facilitator of youth and adult sports. In areas where there is an organized sport group presence, the department will work with this organization to establish use of facilities and adoption of common rules, guidelines and policies for the provision of services to the public. In areas where organized groups do not exist, or are no longer active, the department will actively seek out a new partner to help provide the service, or provide the service directly as an Indy Park and Recreation program.

One of our greatest challenges over the next five years will be to meet the demand for athletic fields by youth and adult soccer, rugby and baseball users. With a backlog of requests for facilities and over use of some park locations, Indy Parks and Recreation is searching for new resources in this area.

**Aquatic Services** – Balancing the needs of youth, families, seniors, competitive swimmers, instructional programming, and accessibility have been the challenge in the design, development, and programming of pools and aquatic centers. The public has expressed a need for a variety of water features including shallow water play areas, lap lanes, and some deep water opportunities.

Programming for instructional and competitive programs continues to rise in demand and service delivery including swim lessons, swim teams, aqua aerobics and parent tot classes.

**Facility Rental/Special Use** – The department has seen a continuous increase in the demand for rental facilities and park space for special events. As Indianapolis continues to grow and expand, demand for park facilities is well beyond our ability to provide. New restrictions and guidelines have been developed in the last two years to help maintain safe and secure conditions during these rentals and events. The development of a new Risk Management Section, and Special Use Committee have been integral to the management of these events and rental opportunities.

**Golf** – The operation of the 13 golf courses through managed contracts continues to work well for Indy Parks and Recreation. Growth of junior golf programs and instructional programs can be seen throughout the system. Development of a new youth course near the urban hub of the city will increase the participation of inner city youth in golf programs.

**Health & Fitness** – The alarming statistics on the health and fitness of Indianapolis citizens has produced a city-wide fitness initiative, Indy in Motion. This program was initiated as a park-based program offered free to the community at ten park locations. The Marion County Health Department and the National Institute for Fitness and Sports helped to provide the necessary funding and instructional expertise. This program will continue to expand to include more community partners and increase participation numbers.

In addition, Indy Parks and Recreation is working with the National Recreation and Park Association to bring the Hearts N' Parks program into parks. This national effort helps to coordinate efforts to bring



# Facilities and Programs

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nutritional education, fitness education, and physical activities into all aspects of park programming.

**Senior Programming** – A new emphasis on the provision of recreational programs and opportunities for our maturing population has developed over the last three years. The Department created a new Senior Program Manager position to help address these growing needs and coordinate delivery of recreation programs and services to seniors across the county. The development of a new Park and Recreation Advisory Council for Maturing Adults will help to guide and sustain these efforts.

**Therapeutic and Inclusion Services** – The Department is currently in the process of expanding our expertise and program delivery for individuals with disabilities. With the new development of a Therapeutic Recreation Manager position, Indy Parks and Recreation is expanding our service opportunities, and increasing our institutional knowledge related to ADA needs, inclusion services, and therapeutic or rehabilitation recreation opportunities. With the dissolution of many state institutions and the growth of group homes in the community, the department is responding to the changing needs of our residents.

**Art and Cultural Programming** – Indianapolis' art community has grown dramatically over the past five years. With increased funding for the arts and a record number of participants in programs, events and activities, the department is experiencing a huge appetite from the public for art programming. In addition to the 100+ public performances that the Department facilitates, the design and construction of a new Art Center and expansion of outreach programs to our Family Centers and school-based programs will result in a greatly increased level of direct program delivery.

**Environmental Education** – Through input received during the 1999 Master Planning process, Indy Parks and Recreation identified Environmental Education as an area that was in high demand and in need of additional resources. The creation of a separate Environmental Education Division, and the completion of the Environmental Education & Interpretive Services Master Plan helped to guide the development and expansion of this program. A new Hub Naturalist Program was initiated, bringing the Environmental Education program to each quadrant of the city in the form of a traveling naturalist who visits local parks

and neighborhoods. Also, the Environmental Adventures Program was re-aligned to provide programs that met the academic requirements for science in grades pre-kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Self-Enrichment** – The department has seen a steady increase in the number and variety of self-enrichment programs offered. Some of the most notable trends are listed below:

- **After School** programs have increased by over 800% in the past four years. This growth was stimulated by community need, creation of the Indianapolis After School Coalition, the appointment of an After School Coordinator through the Mayor's Office, and the creation of the new School Outreach and Day Camp section within Indy Parks and Recreation. Through grant support and county-wide collaborations, the department joined forces with schools and other youth serving agencies to bring after school programs to elementary and middle school sites. With a focus on remediation, academic assistance, prevention, and health and fitness, the after school programs used recreation to enhance learning. New areas of growth and expansion over the next five years will be into underserved outlying townships and schools located near park sites.
- **Day Camp** programs have continued to grow across the city and county. With some local not-for-profits losing funding and decreasing programs, Indy Parks and Recreation has been challenged to fill this void. By partnering with other youth serving organizations and developing some non-traditional funding mechanisms, Indy Parks and Recreation will continue to expand program and service offerings to our community.
- **Adult Education** has seen a rise in demand for classes on Financial Management, Home Improvement, Fitness Training, and various instructional classes such as photography, massage, or computer classes.

## Facilities and Programs

- **Youth Development** continues to grow as a recreational offering with programs focusing on self esteem, conflict resolution, public speaking, health and fitness, family planning, and academic preparation and assistance.
- **Pre-School and Family** programs are experiencing a growth in demand. An increase in cultural diversity along with a growing trend for families to “play” together have contributed to this development.

The following chart is a matrix matching all Indy Parks programs with the facilities they are offered in.



**STAY IN BOUNDS™**

[illegible]

## Facilities and Programs

[illegible]



## Facilities and Programs

[illegible]

# Facilities and Programs

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## Program Maps

The following series of maps illustrate the availability and approximate service areas associated with each type of program offered by Indy Parks. The last map of the series shows Private Providers. A Private Provider could be anything from a Senior Day Program offered by the YMCA or Salvation Army to fitness classes offered at Gold's Gym or Curves for Women to even a Tae Kwon Do or Karate class offered at a local martial arts training center.

### Map Title

*Service Areas - Aquatics Programs*

*Service Areas - Arts Programs*

*Service Areas - Day Camp Programs*

*Service Areas - Environmental Education Programs*

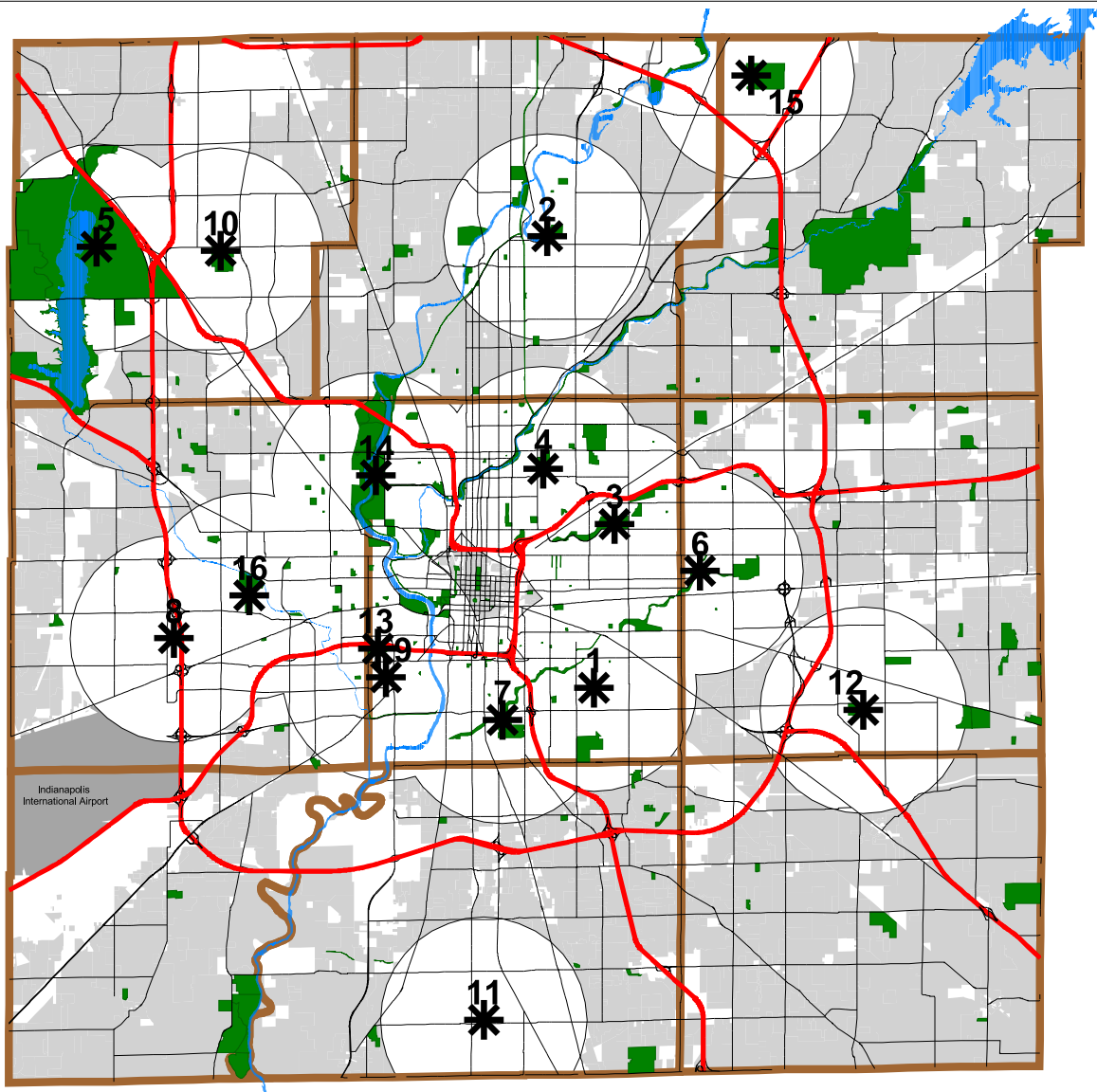
*Service Areas - Sports & Fitness Programs*

*Service Areas - Private Providers*

It is important to point out that the service areas for these maps were kept consistent, where in reality, some people would realistically travel two or three times the assumed service area distance to use certain facilities or to attend certain programs. The maps only attempt to illustrate the general coverage areas that Indy Parks and others provide.



## Service Areas Aquatic Programs



- Parks
- Service Areas - 2 Mile Radius
- Under-Served Residential Areas



- Aquatic Programs
- 1 - Bethel Park
- 2 - Broad Ripple Park
- 3 - Brookside Park
- 4 - Douglass Park
- 5 - Eagle Creek Park
- 6 - Ellenberger Park
- 7 - Garfield Park
- 8 - Krannert Park
- 9 - LaShonna Bates Aquatic Center
- 10 - Northwestway Park
- 11 - Perry Park
- 12 - Raymond Park / Indy Island
- 13 - Rhodus Park
- 14 - Riverside Park
- 15 - Sahn Park
- 16 - Thatcher Park

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

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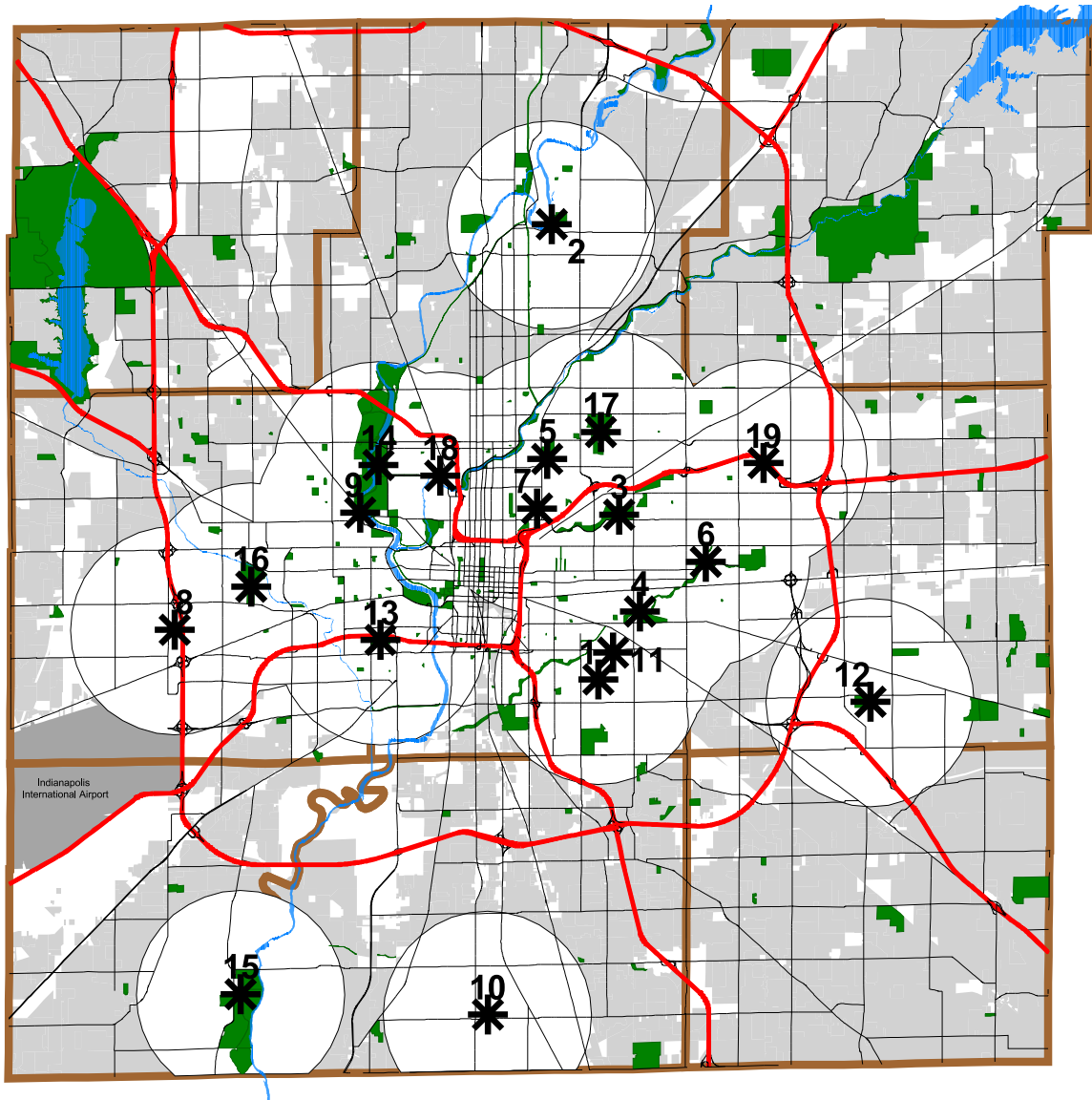
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Geographic Information Systems





# Facilities and Programs

## Service Areas Arts Programs



- Parks
- Service Areas - 2 Mile Radius
- Under-Served Residential Areas



- Arts Programs
- 1 - Bethel Park
  - 2 - Broad Ripple Park
  - 3 - Brookside Park
  - 4 - Christian Park
  - 5 - Douglass Park
  - 6 - Ellensberger Park
  - 7 - JTV Hill Park
  - 8 - Kranert Park
  - 9 - Municipal Gardens
  - 10 - Perry Park
  - 11 - Pride Park
  - 12 - Raymond Park / Indy Island
  - 13 - Rhodius Park
  - 14 - Riverside Park
  - 15 - Southwestway Park
  - 16 - Thatcher Park
  - 17 - Washington Park
  - 18 - Watkins Park
  - 19 - Windsor Village Park

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

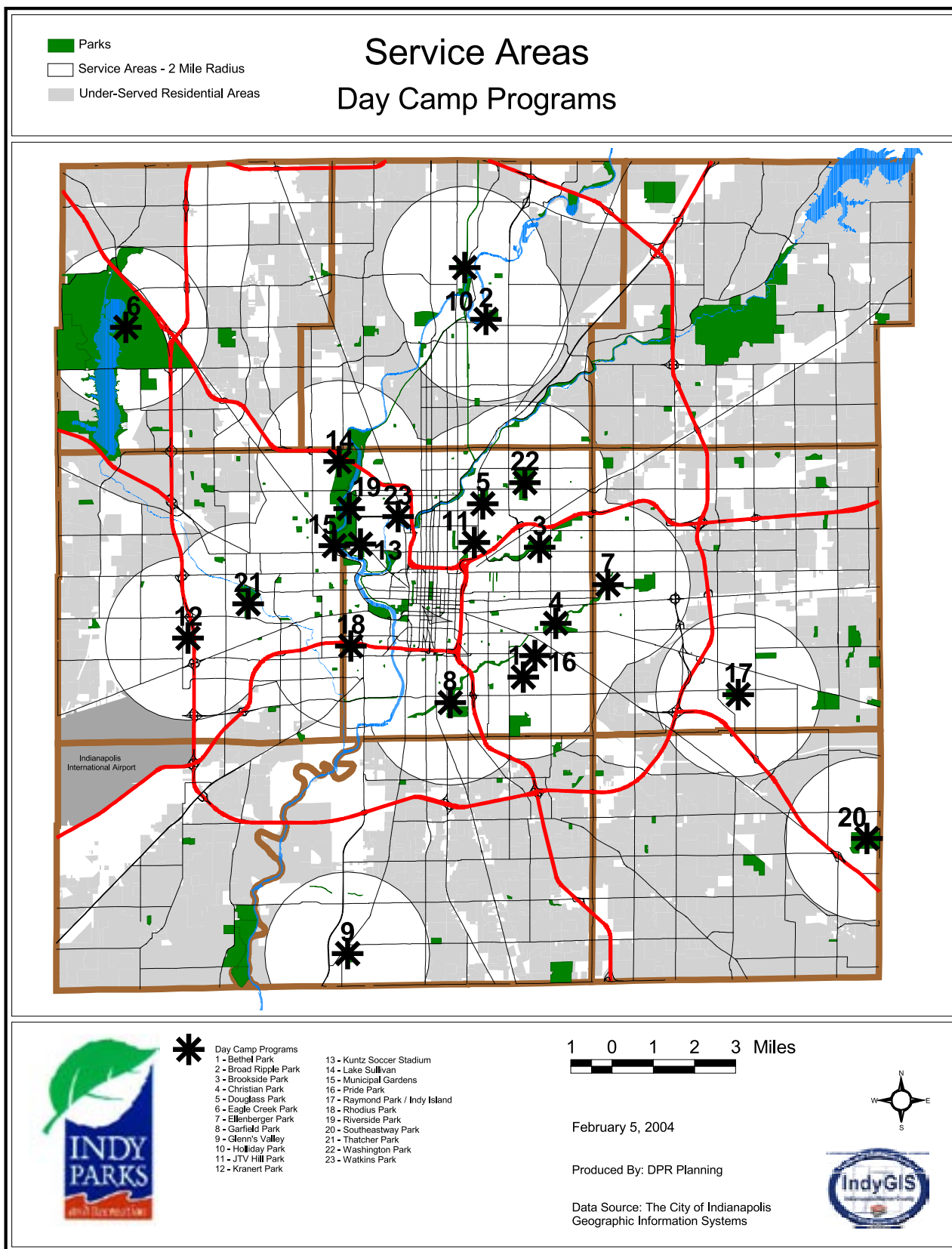


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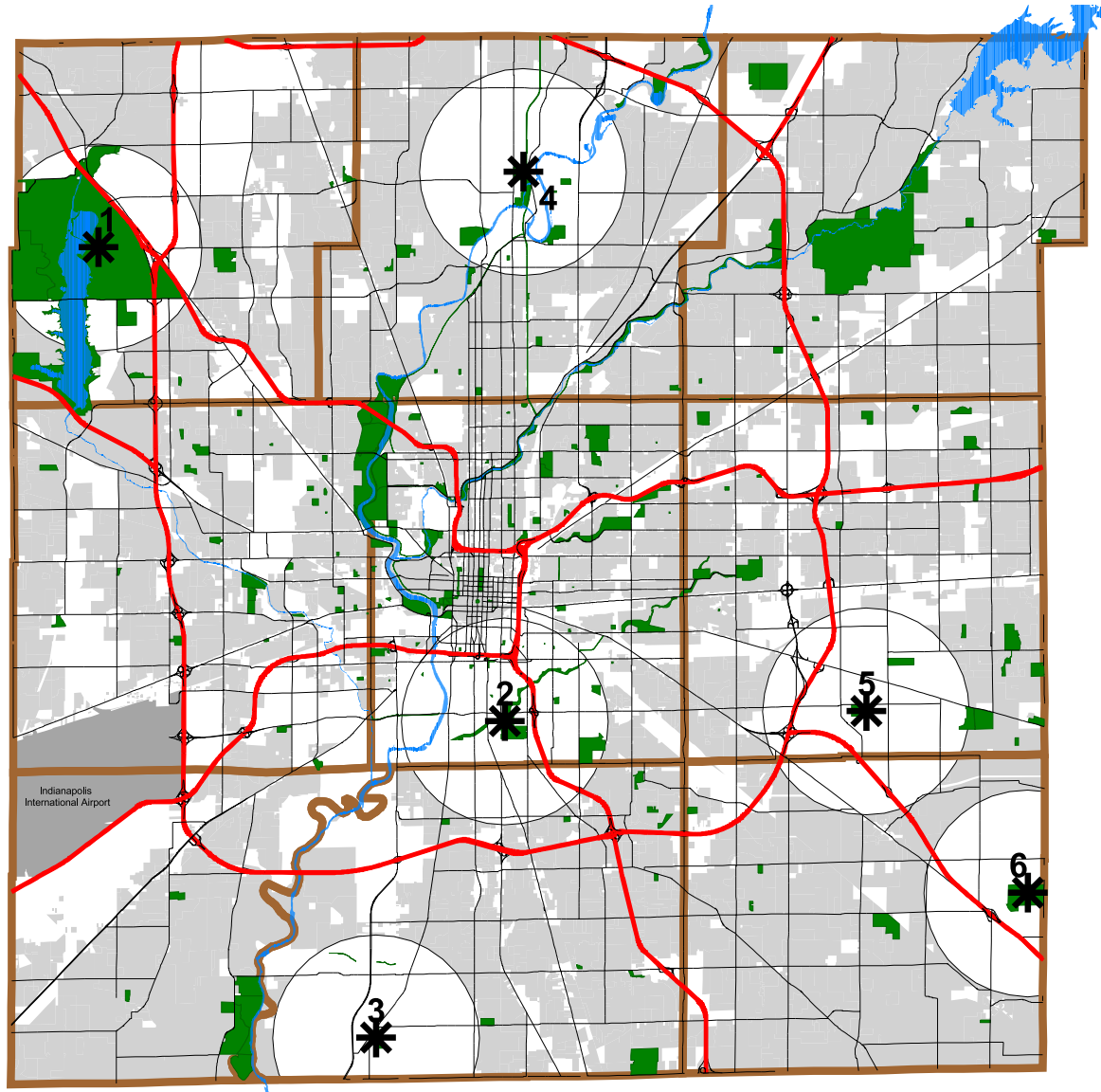
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# Facilities and Programs

## Service Areas Environmental Education Programs



- Parks
- Service Areas - 2 Mile Radius
- Under-Served Residential Areas
- Environmental Education Programs
  - 1 - Eagle Creek Park
  - 2 - Garfield Park
  - 3 - Glenn's Valley Park
  - 4 - Marott Park
  - 5 - Raymond Park / Indy Island
  - 6 - Southeastway Park

1 0 1 2 3 Miles



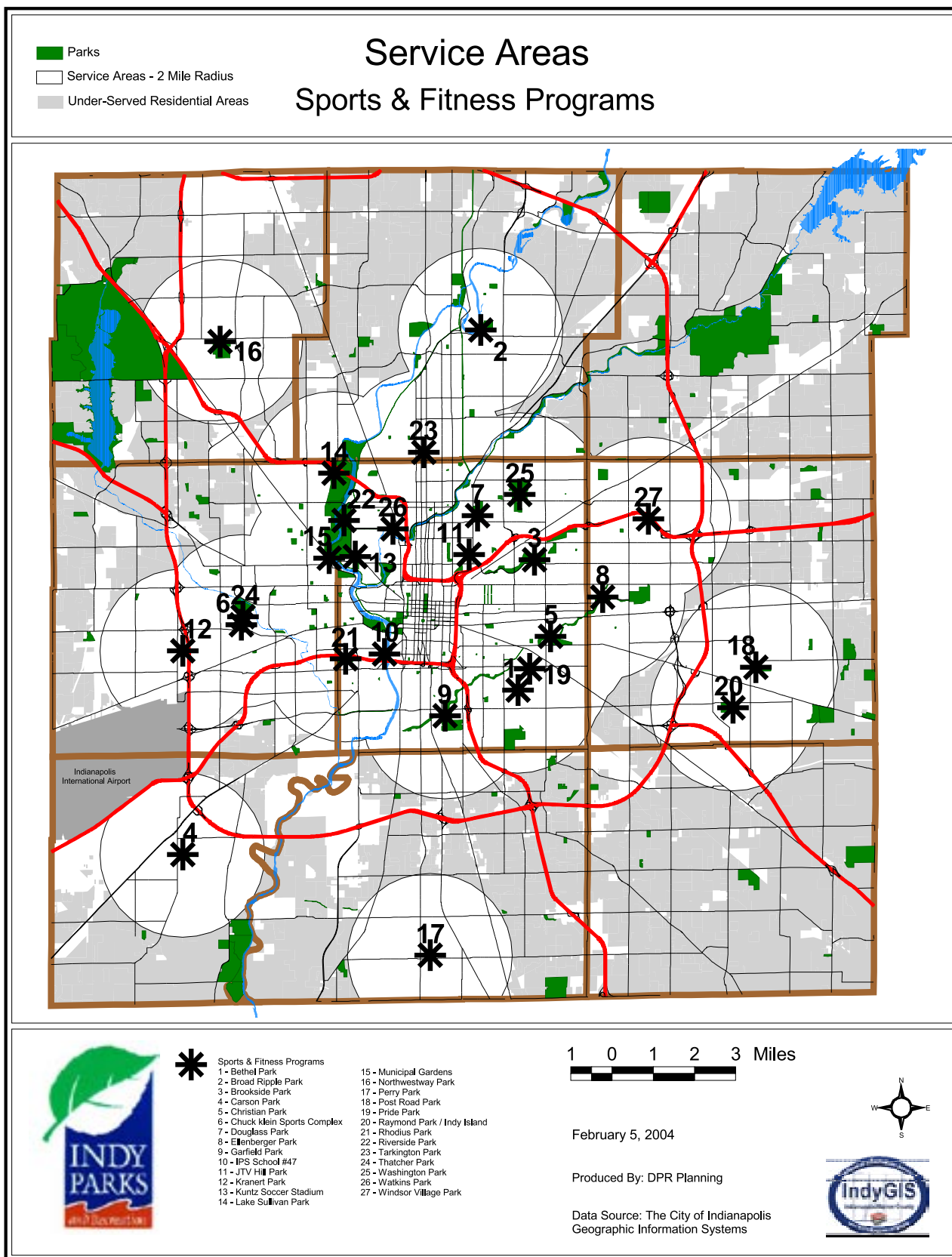
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Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems

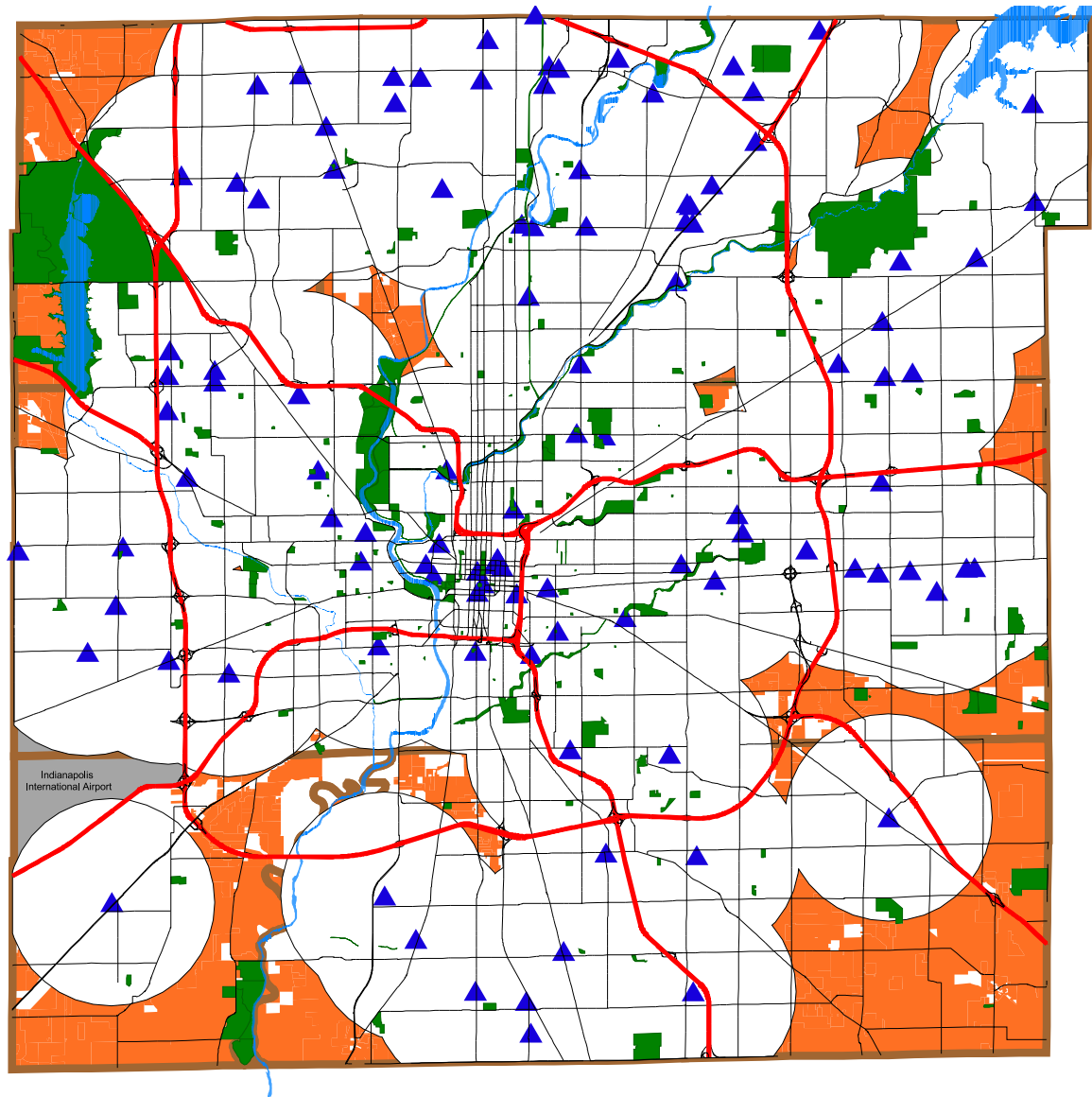









# Facilities and Programs

## Service Areas Major Private Providers



-  Parks
-  Service Areas - 2 Mile Radius
-  Under-Served Residential Areas
-  Major Private Providers

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

March 3, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems





## Southeastway Park





# Rehabilitation Issues

## REHABILITATION ISSUES

The Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation has been in existence for over 100 years, and has built a continuous legacy of providing recreation facilities and programs to the City's residents. Over time, many of its facilities have grown old and worn, and are now in need of substantial rehabilitation and repairs. Some facilities, such as playgrounds have been updated within the past 10-12 years, while many swimming pools have not seen major work in 30 years. While maintenance and capital budgets are significant, there are always more projects proposed than can be funded.

### Recent Areas of Focus

In 2000, soon after taking office, Mayor Bart Peterson and his administration committed to a focused revitalization effort on Indianapolis' near-east side. Indy Parks' role in this was to begin with a series of Park Master Plans, at Highland, Clayton & LaSalle and Willard Parks. Actions outlined in these plans were soon initiated. At Highland Park, the playground was completely replaced, a picnic shelter was added and a water spray area designed. At Clayton & LaSalle Park, a new playground was constructed adjacent to a new picnic shelter. To rehabilitate Willard Park, an Urban Park and Recreation Recovery grant was obtained, along with a Build Indiana Fund grant, private donations and city funds. This includes renovating the pool and bathhouse, parking lot and park lighting. Basketball courts will be completely replaced and a walking trail will be constructed. Construction is underway as of April 2004. At Christian Park, a grant was obtained to add a gymnasium, locker rooms and classroom space to the historic recreation center, facilitating programs that have grown beyond the facilities' capacity.

Similar projects are underway to update with additions or renovation several other recreation centers: Washington Park, Indy Parks (Garfield) Arts Center, Municipal Gardens, Rhodius Park and the Eagle Creek Earth Discovery Center. A UPARR grant is in place to fund renovations to the Martin Luther King Park pool and bathhouse renovation.

Despite these ongoing efforts, there remains a list of rehabilitation projects waiting to be funded. Even with the help of private foundations, such as the

Indianapolis Parks Foundation, the Friends of Eagle Creek, Garfield and Holliday Parks, and other donors, grants remain a key ingredient for maintaining safe, clean and well-maintained parks.

### Areas Needing Rehabilitation

Indy Parks is a countywide agency, with parks ranging from downtown squares to rural agricultural fields. Most of the facilities in need of significant investment are within the pre-1969 City boundaries. This area can also be described as the near-north, near-east, near-west and near-south side of the city.

There is a large number of small neighborhood parks in the city, with concentrations on the near west-side and east side. There are a number of larger community parks on the north and east sides. These parks are primarily located in residential areas. Many neighborhoods have become blighted over the years. In these cases an investment in parks could be the catalyst for further private revitalization efforts. Other parks are located on the edges of commercial areas, sited between residential and commercial zones. These parks are often nodes of social activity in the neighborhood, and again revitalizing these facilities can spur improvements by private companies.

Another area of focus for future revitalization effort has been and will continue to be Indianapolis' White River waterfront. From the White River State Park, White River Greenway and Riverside Park, there is more than 1,000 acres of parkland along the White River. In these areas trails, playgrounds, recreation centers, monuments, parking lots and picnic shelters are in need of repairs.

### Planned Actions

With so many facilities needing renovation, and limited resources to accomplish this, Indy Parks looks to make the most of its dollars by combining efforts with other City agencies and partners. For example, Indy Parks is in the process of renovating Mozel Sanders Park as part of a combined school/park project. Indianapolis Public Schools is constructing a new elementary school in the existing park, making available to Indy Parks its parking lots, offices and gymnasium. In addition, Indy Parks is working to improve the remainder of the park, as well as the site of the old school building. Indy Parks' focus, mentioned earlier,

on the near-east side was complemented by work from the Departments of Public Works and Metropolitan Development.

Indy Parks will continue to seek opportunities to partner with other projects, to make the most possible difference with its limited capital dollars. Parks such as 30<sup>th</sup> & Fall Creek, Skiles Test and Barton Parks are located near or adjacent to planned greenway trails. As these trails are developed, the park facilities will be brought up to standard as well.

## Types of Facilities needing Rehabilitation

Informal staff inventories have been completed at multiple facilities including pools, spray areas, play courts, ball fields, recreation centers, playgrounds, and their supporting facilities. In many cases this has helped us target the most critical and time sensitive rehabilitation needs. For example, knowledge of the location, condition and capacity of existing recreation centers led directly to a \$10 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to renovate, add to or construct six Recreation Centers.

Throughout the 1990s, a playground replacement program was implemented. More than 100 playgrounds were replaced with equipment that met all safety standards of the day. The earliest of these projects are now more than 10 years old, and nearing the end of their expected usable lives. In the coming five years, these facilities will begin coming up for renovation.

In the late 1970s Indy Parks constructed a number of swimming pools and bathhouses. These facilities are now leaking significant quantities of water, sometimes 10"-12" per day. These bathhouses, in most cases, do not meet the access, safety and functionality standards of the Department. Indy Parks has begun this renovation effort with the help of UPARR grants at Willard and Martin Luther King Parks, and will be continuing its efforts at Bethel and Douglass Parks. Other aquatic complexes needing work are Rhodius, Gustafson, Wes Montgomery and Ellenberger Parks.

A fourth facility type in need of major renovations is hard surface playcourts and parking lots. In a survey conducted in 2003, 38 of 83 basketball and tennis courts were in need of complete replacement. Only 5 of 83 courts needed no repairs at all. These are just some of the courts in Indy Parks inventory of 215

basketball and tennis courts. Indy Parks also maintains more than 195 parking lots, many of which are failing and in need of resurfacing.

## Evaluating Rehabilitation versus Replacement

The decision to replace or rehabilitate a facility must be done on a case by case basis. In the past, the recreation trends in the city of Indianapolis along with excellent economic conditions, and a growing population have supported the construction of many facilities. Indy Parks, with the help of the people of Indianapolis, and a strong sense of historic preservation, has been very sensitive to maintaining, and where possible, rediscovering historically significant elements. This is evident in the recent adoption of the Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System to the National Register of Historic Places. George E. Kessler parkway plan for the city is still being realized through continued development of pedestrian trails connecting neighborhoods throughout the city.

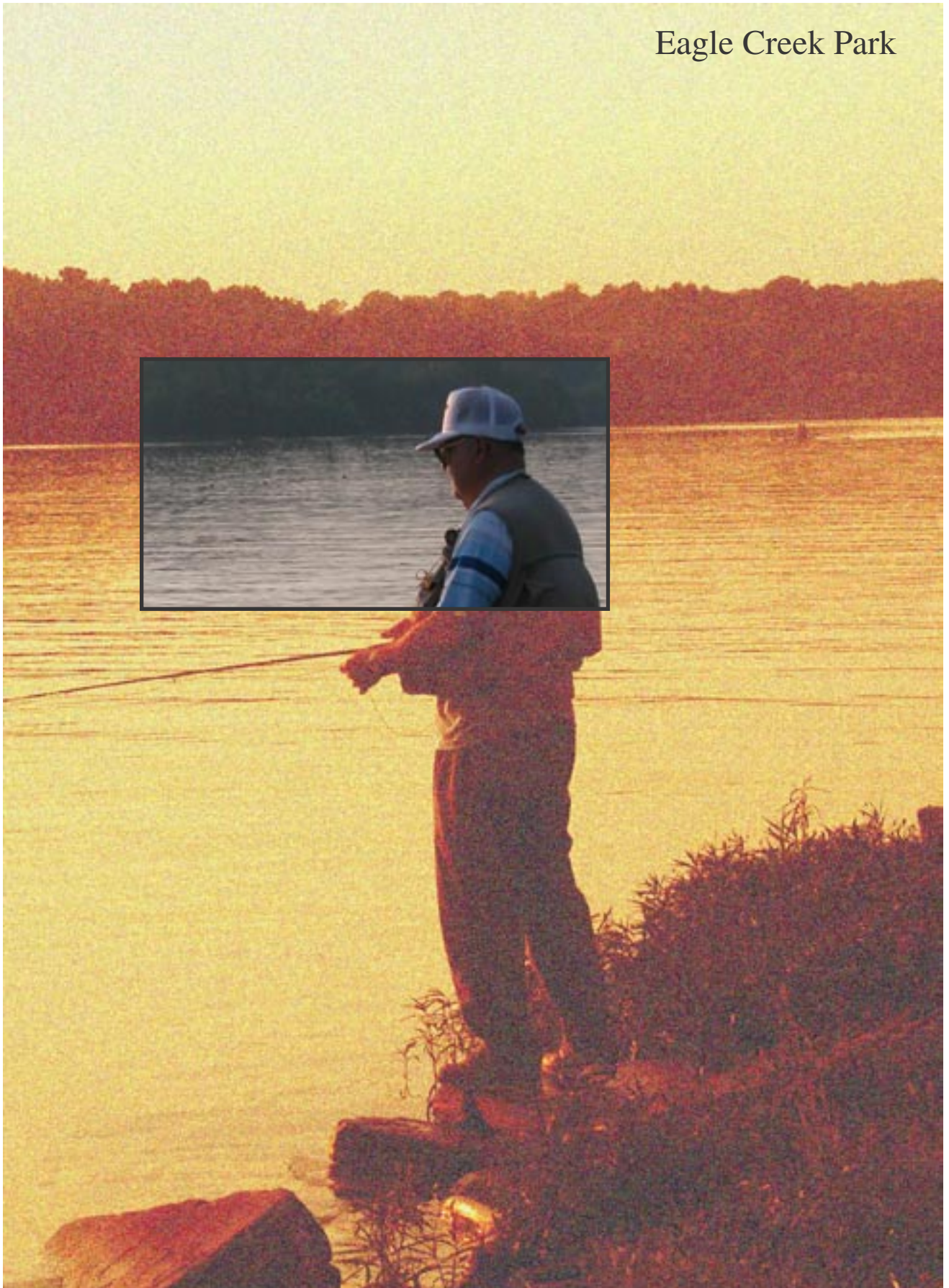


Within existing budgets, Indy Parks has been able to make maintenance repairs on many facilities, and has extended their lives a great many years. This will continue to be the practice where appropriate. However, in many cases, such as the Indy Parks (Garfield) Arts Center or Willard Park bathhouse, the time comes when complete renovation is necessary. These projects are well suited for public and private grant opportunities. In other cases, such as the Eagle Creek Park Earth Discovery Center, it is cost effective in both the short and long term to demolish the existing facility and start from scratch. Once again these decisions are made on a case by case basis. Often these decisions are informed by hiring a design consultant to prepare a scope report including recommendations regarding rehabilitation and replacement issues.





## Eagle Creek Park



# Universal Access Evaluation

## UNIVERSAL ACCESS

In recent years, our Indy Parks has become more aware and sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities. "Future recreation programs and park facilities must emphasize accessibility and inclusion for all users, and de-emphasize the separation of user groups into categories based on ability" (Carter, Van Andel, Rob, 1995). The Department's philosophy is to create an environment that is the least restrictive possible. In doing this, we can improve the quality of life for all people within our community.

Indy Parks and Recreation is committed to helping people with disabilities participate at their optimal level of independence. We strive to provide services that focus on leisure-related skills, attitudes, and knowledge. The promotion of programs that improve social skills, self-awareness, and leisure skill development is also a key area of interest within our department. We do not want our participants to be involved in programs that just take up time. Our programs are designed and delivered with the intention of eliciting positive change in the individual.

Interestingly, the word recreation has an unlikely definition. As the dictionary states it is "the process of giving new life to something, or refreshing something, or restoring something." This of course is the whole person. Indy Parks and Recreation is invested in the holistic development of individuals with disabilities. It is our desire to provide a continuum of recreational services that offer a lifetime of benefits.

To support its wide range of events and programs, Indy Parks is making continuous improvements to its existing facilities. From bathhouse renovations and picnic shelter construction to playground replacement each of these projects is undertaken with universal accessibility in mind. Staff and hired professionals keep abreast of changes in the law and design practice to provide the best possible facilities for all. All construction, whether new or renovations, within the parks system is planned to, at a minimum, meet ADA requirements, and in most cases exceeds it. On the following pages is a sampling of just some of the design and capital projects completed in recent years, including details about how they address accessibility. Significant projects to point out would be the new Recreation or Family Centers and the Lilly Lake area in Eagle Creek Park, which from their inception were

planned as models of accessibility. It is Indy Parks intent that these projects will serve as usable demonstrations of how a parks facility should be designed.

A critical aspect of Departmental planning is the development of positive relationships with agencies in and outside of city government. In order to enhance the possibilities of inclusion for people with disabilities it is important that these relationships be established with agencies that serve such people. The following are examples of current partnerships that are yielding positive results.

- Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana
- Hook Rehab Center
- Riley Hospital's Parent Information Center
- Indianapolis Power Soccer League
- National Disabled Sports Alliance
- American Camping Association
- Indianapolis Public Schools
- Mayor's Advisory Council on Disabilities
- Indiana University at Bradford Woods
- Indiana Soap Box Derby Association
- Indiana Pacers Wheelchair Basketball Team

Through these partnerships we have created dynamic programs such as the Kids Discovery Sports Day, Indianapolis Power Soccer League, Adaptive Soap Box Derby Races, Special Olympics, Outdoor Adventure Challenge Day, Adaptive Swimming Programs, RHI One Mile Race, Wheel Chair Basketball, and the 2004 Power Soccer World Invitational. In addition, the recognition of non-business relationships has also been identified as an important aspect of the Department's move to better serve people with disabilities.

In an effort to bring our community together to provide citizens with disabilities the best possible recreation experience Indy Parks has created the Citizen's Council on Recreation & Disabilities (CCRD). The purpose of the council is to provide the community with a forum to express their needs regarding accessible and inclusive recreation. The CCRD is also charged with the implementation and support of activity programming for people with disabilities. In addition, the council plays an active role in fund raising for the Therapeutic & Adaptive Recreation Section.

At the end of this section are three maps of Marion County that depict populations with disabilities. These maps serve as a tool, both for staff as well as the CCRD. It is useful for making decisions on where



# Universal Access Evaluation

and how to offer programs geared for specific populations.

The combination of positive community relationships, accessible facilities, and innovative programs provides Indy Parks with a clear direction for the next five years. Future planning should concentrate on the development and implementation of the following areas.

- Creation of an internship program
- Expansion of summer camping opportunities
- Development of three competitive sports leagues
- Increased growth of the CCRD
- Development of cooperative programs with parks departments outside of Marion County
- Host future Power Soccer World Invitational
- Establish additional partnerships with community agencies
- Expand services to a broader range of community residents
- Continue progress on renovating and bringing up to standards, existing facilities. This can be accomplished through Indy Parks regular budgets, grant opportunities and special donations.

“Recreation is characterized by feelings of mastery, achievement, exhilaration, acceptance, success, personal worth and pleasure”(Carter, Van Andel, Rob, 1995). From this perspective it becomes apparent that recreation is vital to the quality of life for all people. Examples like this clearly illustrate the therapeutic worth of recreational experiences. It is this thought that drives Indy Parks to provide people with disabilities consistent and appropriate opportunities to engage in activities that empower the individual to find value in their leisure lives.





# Universal Access Evaluation

Project Type	Park Location	Project Description	Type Of Contract	Year	Project Cost
Sitework	Centennial & 20th	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Christina Oaks	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Crooked Creek MSC	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Eagle Creek	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Finch	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Rhodius	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Ridenour	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Riverside	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Southside	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2000	\$ 35,000
Aquatics	Andrew Ramsey Park	Renovate water spray area	Construction	2001	\$ 90,000
Aquatics	Willard Park	Pool Lift Renovation/Modernization	Construction	2001	\$ 14,515
Aquatics	Windsor Village	Install new ADA compliant spray area	Construction	2001	\$ 125,000
Buildings	Eagle Creek Park-Campus Master Plan	Renovate bathroom interior to meet ADA standards	Construction	2001	\$ 104,220
Buildings	Garfield Park	Modernize Arts Center & add ADA accessibility	Scoping study	2001	\$ 13,840
Buildings	Perry Park	Replace shower controls	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Buildings	Rhodius Park	New Community Center built to ADA standards	Scoping study	2001	\$ 18,680
Buildings	Washington Park	New Family Center built to ADA standards	Design	2001	\$ 128,555
Golf	9 Golf Clubhouses	Bring 9 golf course clubhouses up to ADA Compliance	Design	2001	\$ 14,450
Golf	Douglass Golf Course	Tee Box Installation, 18 accessible tees	Construction	2001	\$ 68,940
Sitework	Bluff Park	Resurface existing trail and improve access to park features	Construction	2001	\$ 30,000
Sitework	Centennial & Groff	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2001	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Christian (Train)	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2001	\$ 8,000
Sitework	Eagle Creek	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Eagle Creek	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2001	\$ 35,000

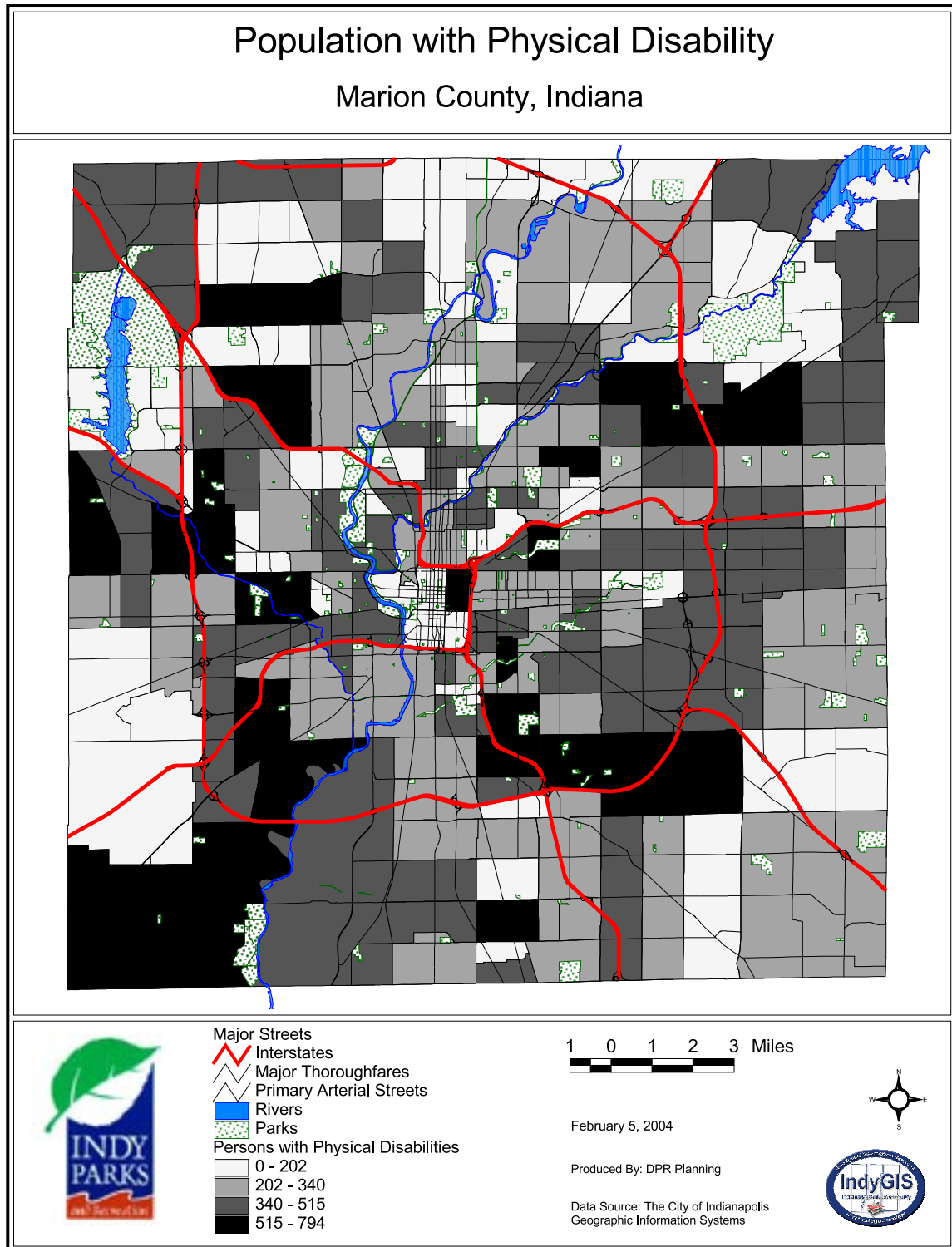
# Universal Access Evaluation

Project Type	Park Location	Project Description	Type Of Contract	Year	Project Cost
Sitework	Garfield (south)	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Highland	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2001	\$ 35,000
Sitework	McCarty Triangle	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2001	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Riverside	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Riverside	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Riverside	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Ross Claypool	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Southeastway	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Southeastway	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Southeastway Park	Replace and renovate sidewalks from parking lot to Nature Center	Construction	2001	\$ 55,710
Sitework	Talbott & 29th	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Talley	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2001	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Talley Park	New ADA accessible picnic shelter	Construction	2001	\$ 12,041
Aquatics	Bowman Park	New spray area	Design	2002	\$ 18,750
Aquatics	Willard Park	Renovate pool, bathhouse and site including ADA compliance	Design	2002	\$ 93,800
Aquatics	Willard Park	Renovate spray area, pool wall to meet ADA compliance	Construction	2002	\$ 178,890
Buildings	Broad Ripple Park	Renovate library to rec center & meet ADA compliance	Construction	2002	\$ 203,400
Buildings	Christian Park	Add gymnasium, elevator and building core to existing facility	Design	2002	\$ 148,020
Buildings	Eagle Creek Park	New ADA Compliant Earth Discovery Center	Design	2002	\$ 350,404
Buildings	Garfield Art Center	Modernize building & add ADA accessibility	Scoping study	2002	\$ 13,340
Buildings	Garfield Art Center	Modernize building & add ADA accessibility	Design	2002	\$ 111,170
Buildings	Rhodius Park	New ADA Compliant Community Center	Design	2002	\$ 89,400
Buildings	Washington Park	New ADA Compliant Family Center	Construction	2002	\$ 1,859,000
Greenways/ Trails	Fall Creek Trail	New Accessible Trail Monon to Central Ave	Construction	2002	\$ 79,897
Greenways/ Trails	Monon Trail Phase II	New Accessible Trail Westfield to Fall Creek	Construction	2002	\$ 30,059
Sitework	Arsenal	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Bowman	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Canterbury	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Clayton & LaSalle	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Denver	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Ellenberger	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000

# Universal Access Evaluation

Project Type	Park Location	Project Description	Type Of Contract	Year	Project Cost
Sitework	Ellenberger Playground	Replace playground W/ ADA Compliant Structure	Construction	2002	\$ 19,165
Sitework	Frank Young	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Gustafson	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Highland	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Juan Solomon	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Northwestway Park	New ADA Compliant Playground	Construction	2002	\$ 62,934
Sitework	Stringtown	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Sitework	YWCA	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2002	\$ 15,000
Buildings	Bethel Park	Construct New ADA Compliant Family Center	Construction	2003	\$ 1,847,000
Buildings	Brookside Family Center	Renovate interior restrooms to meet ADA standards	Construction	2003	\$ 64,740
Buildings	Eagle Creek Peace Learning Center	Renovate Bathrooms and Bldg. for ADA Access	Design	2003	\$ 14,603
Buildings	Municipal Gardens	ADA Accessible Gymnasium Addition	Construction	2003	\$ 1,799,300
Buildings	Rhodus Park	ADA Compliant Community Center	Construction	2003	\$ 1,488,000
Buildings	Willard bathhouse/ concession/ baseball and trail renovation	ADA Renovation of interior of both buildings, trail, baseball, basketball, parking lot	Construction	2003	\$ 609,650
Sitework	Andrew Ramsey	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2003	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Bellamy	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2003	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Clayton & LaSalle	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2003	\$ 35,000
Sitework	Eagle Creek Crest	Ramp Handrail Addition	Construction	2003	\$ 640
Sitework	Eagle Creek Lilly Lake	ADA ramp to restroom, shelter, overlook, & boat rental. Renovate restroom.	Construction	2003	\$ 122,245
Sitework	Ellenberger	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2003	\$ 16,000
Sitework	Gateway West	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2003	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Haughville Park	Install playground structure, including ADA components	Construction	2003	\$ 35,000
Sitework	MLK Park Pool	Pool ADA renovation /Moderization	Scoping study	2003	\$ 12,740
Sitework	MLK Park Pool	Pool ADA renovation /Moderization	Design	2003	\$ 60,000
Sitework	Northwestway Park	New ADA Compliant Playground	Construction	2003	\$ 78,000
Sitework	Sandorf	Install picnic shelter and accessible walks	Construction	2003	\$ 15,000
Sitework	Talbott & 29th Park Change Order 1	Add Accessible concrete path connecting two sidewalks	Construction	2003	\$ 1,250

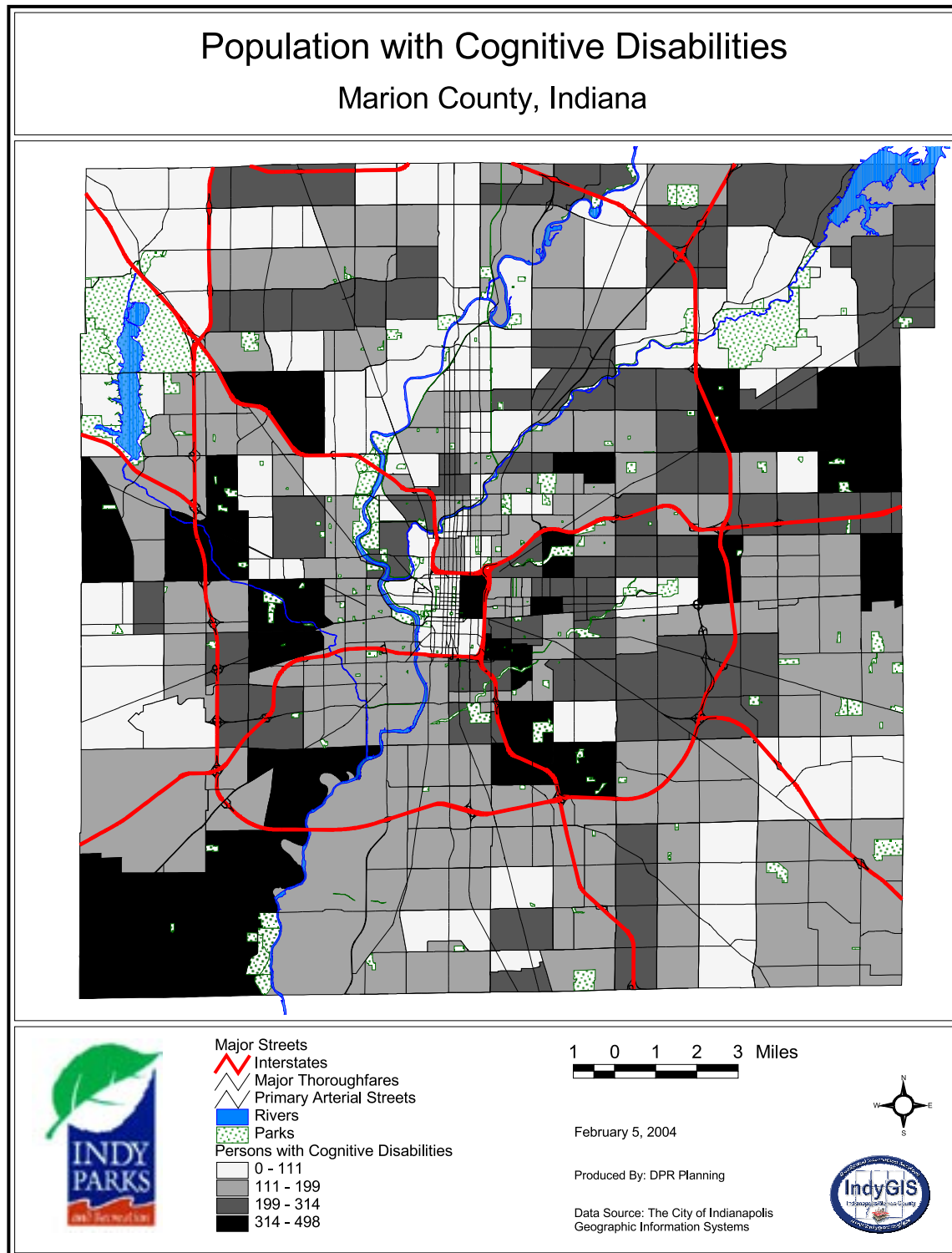




This map displays the fact that individuals with physical disabilities, as defined in the 2000 United States Census, are spread more or less evenly throughout the entire county. These findings support our broad ranging efforts to bring all existing facilities up to ADA code when possible and abide by ADA code require-

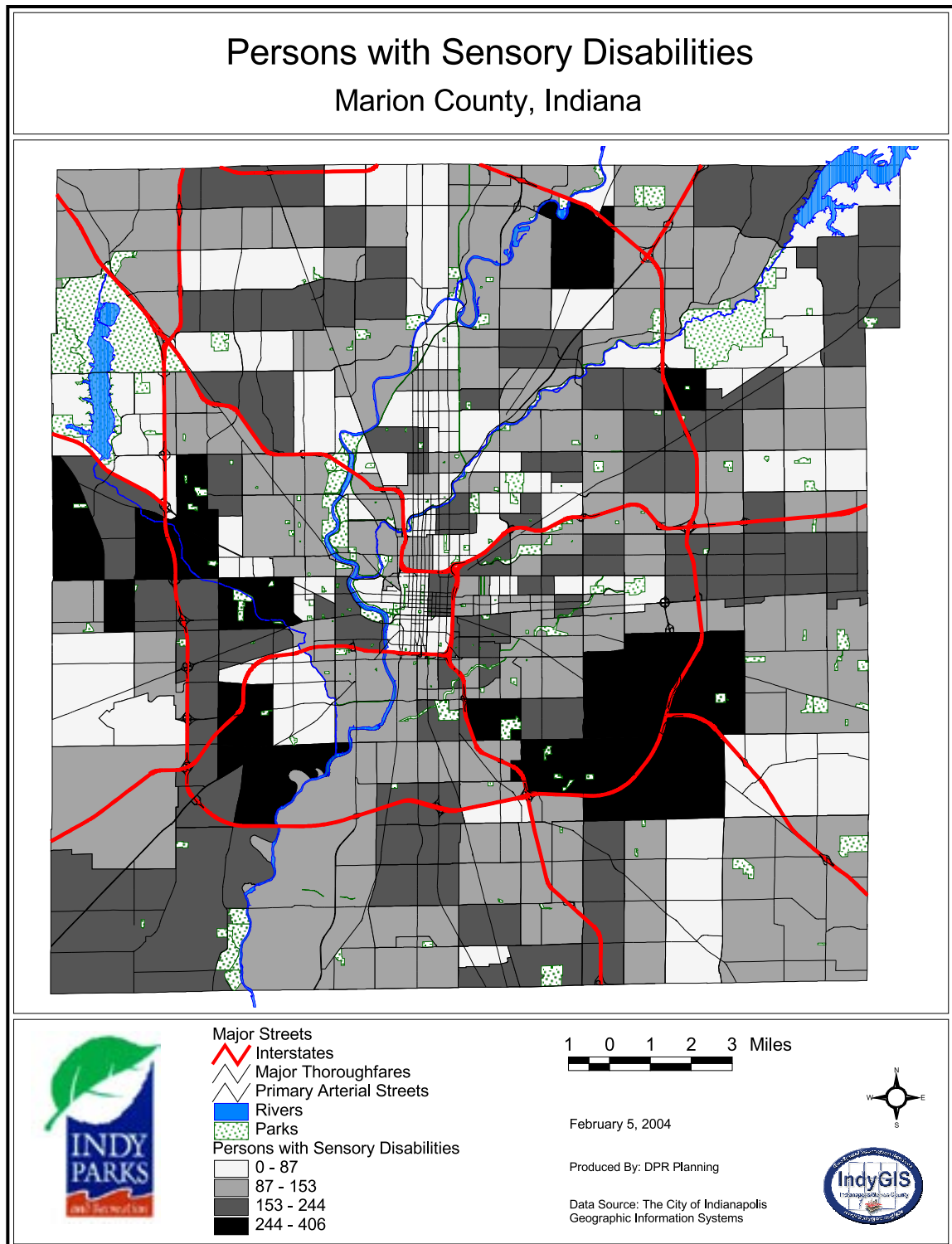
ments when building all new facilities. Closer inspection reveals significant concentrations in Decatur and Franklin Townships. These areas are currently underserved in terms of park acreage, so ADA accessible facilities seem especially needed here. Potential exists at both Southwestway Park and Franklin Com-

# Universal Access Evaluation



This map displays the distribution of individuals with Cognitive disabilities, as defined in the 2000 United States census, throughout the county. Two major concentrations seem especially significant, in Decatur and the border of Lawrence and Warren townships. Outreach to people with cognitive disabilities

is typically handled through specific programs. Both of these areas lack appropriate centers to house such programs, so analysis of this map shows areas doubly in need. There is potential at both Southwestway Park and in the Community Alliance of the Far East-side (CAFE) neighborhood to provide facilities to meet these program needs.



This map displays the distribution of individuals with Sensory disabilities, as defined in the 2000 United States census, throughout the county. Since sensory disability can encompass a broad range of challenges, Indy Parks facilities need to include ADA elements as well as provide programming to meet peoples needs.

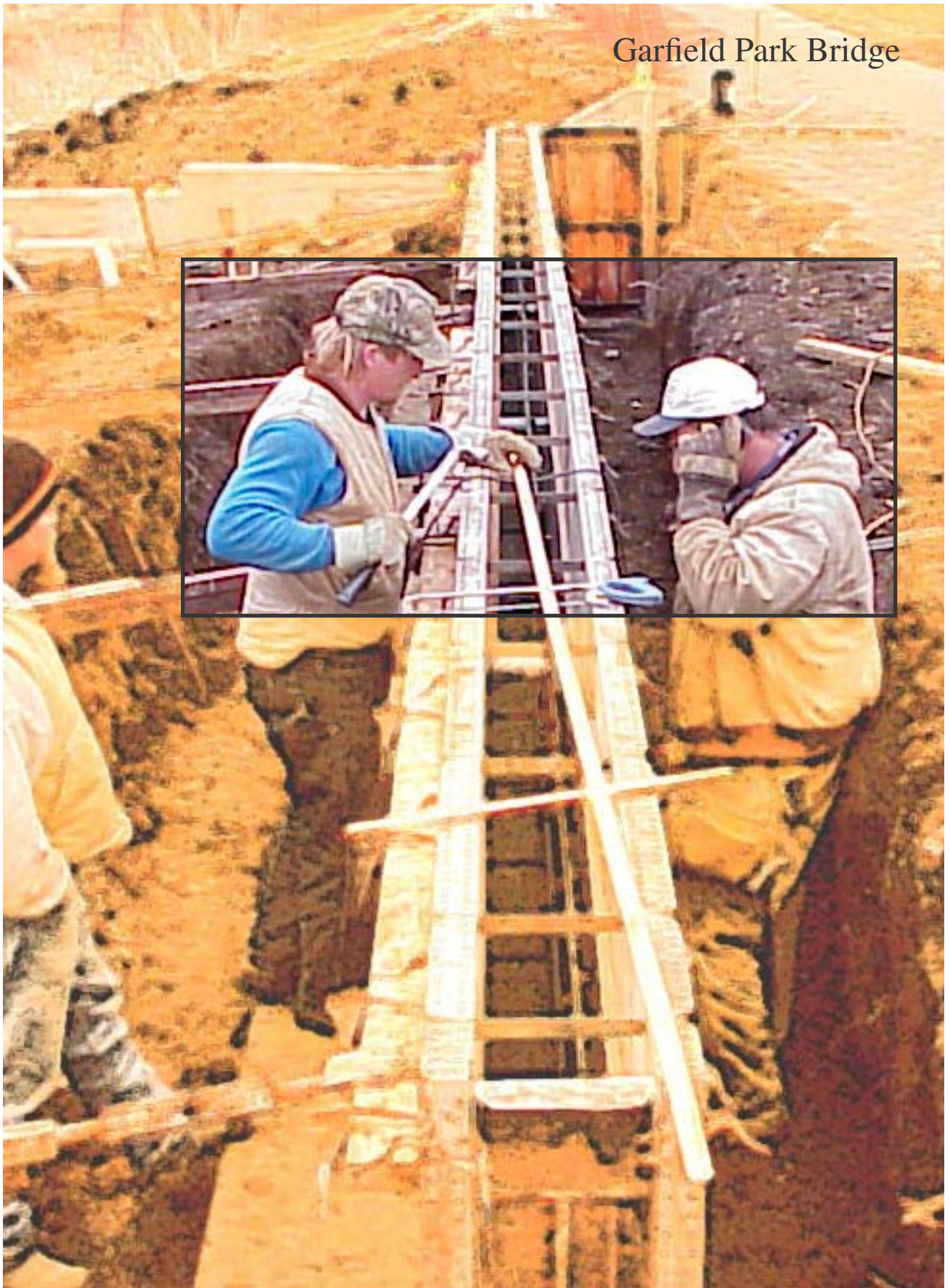
The distribution of individuals with these needs is spread throughout the county, with the largest concentration appearing on the near southeast side, showing a significant need for an adequate Recreation Center with programmed activities. Park facilities in this area include Christian, Bethel and Raymond Parks.







Garfield Park Bridge



# Identified Needs

## REVIEW OF INFORMATION

After reviewing the data gathered and generated in the investigation of our needs, it is clear that some interpretation of the information is needed. This section of the Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan deals directly with the interpretation of research information in addition to comparisons of information gathered from selected cities and their park agencies.

## TRENDS ANALYSIS

From surveys done by the USDA-US Forest Service concerning outdoor recreation, it is clear that Americans are serious about walking. Of those responding, 83% said that they walk for pleasure, making it the most popular activity in the nation. The National Survey on Recreation & the Environment, a survey done by the USDA for nearly 50 years, also points to long term trends. The number of people who ride bicycles for recreation has gone from 17 million in 1960 to over 80 million in the year 2000. The top ten recreation activities from the survey, taken in 200, include the following:

1. Walking for Pleasure
2. Family Gatherings
3. Visiting a Beach
4. Visiting a Nature Center
5. Picnicking
6. Sightseeing
7. Attending Outdoor Sports Event
8. Visiting Historic Sites
9. Viewing Wildlife
10. Swimming in Lakes and Streams

According to a recent survey done by the Indianapolis Parks and Recreation, 79% of the people responding indicated that they "Walked or Hiked," making it the number one outdoor activity among respondents. From the initial analysis of the survey, the recreation activities in Indianapolis are very similar to those in the rest of the country. The top ten activities in Indianapolis

are:

1. Walking or Hiking
2. Bicycling or Roller-Blading
3. Picnicking
4. Walking the Dog
5. Attending a Special Event
6. Viewing Wildlife
7. Going to a Playground
8. Attending an Outdoor Concert
9. Swimming
10. Playing Golf

For indoor activities, 27% indicated that they participated in Fitness Activities, making it the most popular indoor activity among respondents. The Top-Ten activities were:

1. Fitness Activities
2. Reading Area and/or Library Use
3. Team Sport Instruction
4. Adult Educational Programs
5. Arts & Crafts Programs, Music & Visual Arts Classes\*
6. Computer Lab Use
7. Facility Rental
8. Youth Development & Drop-in Basketball\*
9. Day Camp, Drama & Dance Classes\*
10. After-School Programs & Gymnastics\*

\* Indicates a Tie

Other National Trends in recreation include:  
- Senior program expansion to include



- more active programs
- Closer control and higher level of organization with youth sports
- Art and physical fitness programs for youth provided by parks departments not schools
- Use of schools as recreation centers after school hours
- Growth of recreation as a therapeutic or rehabilitative resource
- Infusion of health and fitness initiatives into recreation programming
- Cultural Tourism



## BENCHMARK ANALYSIS

### RECREATION TRENDS & CURRENT STATUS

From the previous Comprehensive Plan, completed in 1999, we can see that walking for pleasure is still the most popular outdoor recreation activity in the United States. With the country's current emphasis on fitness and healthy living and eating, walking for pleasure, not to mention good health, will more than likely continue to be the most popular activity in America. It requires minimal investment of money, no training and can be accomplished almost anywhere there is a smooth and reliable walking surface.

According to the nationwide survey completed by the U.S. Forest Service, the second most popular activity in the U.S. is a Family Gathering. Here in Indianapolis, we see a somewhat different trend in the most popular activities. Based on our survey in the spring of 2004, Bicycling, Roller-Blading and/or Skateboarding came in as the second most popular outdoor activity. Although these activities may not be traditional Family Gatherings, there are large numbers of families that ride, roller-blade, and/or skate as a family on our greenways and in our parks.

In the process of looking at Indianapolis in comparison to other cities, we first looked at the cities used in the last comp plan update and expanded upon it by adding a few more cities that we felt either were similar to Indianapolis in demographics or were competitors for industry, jobs and even tourism. This "benchmarking" process enables us to compare apples to apples as closely as we can with other cities and is valuable in identifying areas of improvement. Eleven (11) cities were chosen for the 2004 update, adding Atlanta, Houston, Milwaukee, and Seattle. Benchmark comparisons were made with these cities in the areas of:

- Acres of parkland, miles of trails
- Parkland to population standards
- Programs offered
- Spending per Resident



# Identified Needs

## PARK ACREAGE ANALYSIS

Generally, when compared to the other cities, Indianapolis is about average in most respects. When you begin to breakdown the analysis, you can see more closely where Indianapolis falls. The average park acreage per resident among selected cities is 12.9 acres per 1,000 residents. Indianapolis currently has 15.0 acres per 1,000 residents when all public parks are considered, and 13.3 acres per 1,000 residents when only considering parks owned or managed by Indy Parks. Portland, Oregon has the most acres per 1,000 residents with 24.5 acres, while Detroit has the least amount with only 6.2 acres per 1,000 residents. The chart on the following page shows the selected cities and the acreage for each. Indianapolis' Comprehensive Land Use Plan recommends 17.3 acres per 1,000 residents.

### Land Devoted to Parks

Another valuable comparison that can be made is the amount of city land that is devoted to parks. Although some cities are much larger than Indianapolis, it is still valuable when you look at cities very closely resembling Indianapolis in landscape character. The average

amount of land devoted to parks is 10.9%, with San Francisco having the most amount (19.8%) and Atlanta having the least amount (3.8 %.) Indianapolis has only 5.1 % devoted to parks, well below the average and only slightly better than Atlanta. In fact, of the selected cities, Indianapolis is second to last in this category. This data is presented in the chart on the following page.

### Spending per Resident

Another general comparison presented here is the amount of spending on parks and recreation per resident. The data for the following charts comes from *Inside City Parks*, published by the Urban Land Institute and the Trust for Public Land. According to data published in 2000, Indianapolis spends approximately \$32 per resident for parks. The national average for park spending is \$71 per resident. Seattle spends \$214, the most per resident among selected cities, while St. Louis spends the least at \$6 per resident. Among selected cities, Indianapolis ranks next to the bottom in this category. No data was available for two of the selected cities, Detroit and San Francisco.

Park Acreage in Selected Cities			
Selected Cities	Population	All Parkland (Acres)*	Acres per 1000 Residents
Portland, OR	529,000	12,959	24.5
Cincinnati	331,000	7,000	21.1
Milwaukee	940,000	15,115	16.1
Minneapolis	383,000	5,694	14.9
Columbus, OH	711,000	8,494	11.9
Houston	1,954,000	21,252	10.9
Seattle	563,000	6,052	10.7
St Louis	348,000	3,385	9.7
Atlanta	416,000	3,235	7.8
San Francisco	777,000	5,916	7.6
Detroit	951,000	5,890	6.2
Average acres per 1000 residents for the above selected cities			12.9
Indy Parks Jurisdiction	781,870	10,297	13.2
All Marion County	860,454	12,618	14.7

\* All Parkland includes all parks and preserves owned by city, county, state and federal agencies within the boundaries of the selected cities.

# Identified Needs

Percent of City Land Devoted to Parks			
Selected Cities	City Area (Acres)	All Parkland (Acres)*	Parkland as Percentage of City
San Francisco	29,884	5,916	19.8 %
Minneapolis	35,130	5,694	16.2 %
Portland, OR	85,964	12,959	15.1 %
Cincinnati	49,898	7,000	14.0 %
Seattle	53,677	6,024	11.2 %
Milwaukee	154,880	15,115	9.8 %
St Louis	39,630	3,385	8.5 %
Detroit	88,810	5,890	6.6 %
Columbus, OH	134,568	8,494	6.3 %
Houston	370,818	21,252	5.7 %
Atlanta	84,316	3,235	3.8 %
Average Percentage of Parkland for the above selected cities			10.6 %
Indianapolis	231,342	12,618	5.5 %

\* All Parkland includes all parks and preserves owned by city, county, state and federal agencies within the boundaries of the selected cities.

Park Spending per Resident (Adjusted)			
Selected Cities	Adjusted Spending	Population	Dollars per Resident
Seattle	\$120,749,000	563,000	\$214
Minneapolis	\$62,879,000	383,000	\$164
Cincinnati	\$43,737,000	331,000	\$132
Portland, OR	\$52,205,000	529,000	\$99
Atlanta	\$36,719,000	416,000	\$88
Columbus, OH	\$51,000,000	711,000	\$72
Milwaukee	\$50,452,000	940,000	\$54
Houston	\$64,634,000	1,954,000	\$33
St Louis	\$2,030,000	348,000	\$6
Detroit	No Data	951,000	\$0
San Francisco	No Data	777,000	\$0
Average Dollars per Resident			\$96
Indianapolis	\$25,147,000	792,000	\$32

\* Adjusted spending consists of operating and capital expenditures minus expenditures associated with museums, stadiums, zoos and aquariums



# Identified Needs

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## PARK COMPARISONS BY CLASSIFICATION

When comparing park classifications, it is important to point out that different cities have different classes of parks. We have made an attempt to compare the same or very similar categories when possible. Over the last decade, Indianapolis has improved its parks classifications system. Many cities do not separate out Golf Courses, while others only manage traditional parks and what we call Sports Complexes are owned and managed by Recreation Commissions. The following charts illustrate the differences and similarities

between Indianapolis and the selected cities.

It should be noted that Houston, a city that has grown tremendously over the past few decades, is a city of over 370,000 acres and continues to grow. In connection with this growth, they have created a class of parks they call the Metro Park. These are very similar to our Regional Park, and falls into a similar size range, approximately 200 acres. Although Indianapolis and the other selected cities do not all share the same classification categories. We can compare ourselves to the few cities that use a similar classification pattern.



## Identified Needs

[illegible]

\* Cincinnati - Some class acres not listed due to availability of information

\*\* Houston - Golf Course acreage is incorporated into total acreage.

# Identified Needs

## Adopted Standards for Indianapolis-Marion County Park Areas

	Regional Park Standard	Community Park Standard	Neighborhood Park Standard	Trail Standard
<b>Indianapolis</b>	10.0 acres/ 1000 population	6.0 acres/1000 population	1.3 acres/1000 population	.15 miles/1000 population

### PARK STANDARDS

Park standards that have been adopted by Indianapolis help us determine not only where parks are needed, but also how many acres of parkland or miles of greenways we need in certain areas of the county. The adopted standards, carried over from 1999, are illustrated in the following chart.

#### Regional Park Standards

The current service level averages out at 9.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 people, which is an increase of 44.9% over the 5.18 acres in 1999. With a standard of 10 acres of regional parkland/1,000 population, a standard adopted by Indianapolis during the previous Comprehensive Plan process, we are within easy striking distance of meeting this standard. It should be noted that, while the overall county is close to the standard, Pike township skews the figures, with 83% of the parkland.

Township	Park Supply - Regional Parks	Population	Acres per 1000
Center	218.6	167,055	1.3
Decatur	410.7	24,726	16.6
Franklin	185.9	32,080	5.8
Lawrence	66.3	111,961	0.6
Perry	0.0	92,838	0.0
Pike	4,279.0	71,465	59.9
Warren	0.0	93,941	0.0
Washington	0.0	132,927	0.0
Wayne	0.0	133,461	0.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5160.5</b>	<b>860,454</b>	<b>9.4</b>

#### Community Park Standards

According to the previous Comprehensive Plan, Indianapolis established a standard for community parks at 6.0 acres per 1,000 people. This standard is in keeping with national standards and is a major goal for which to strive. Currently, we have 0.8 acres of community parkland per 1,000 population, a decline in the numbers of acres per 1,000 since the last plan. This decline is

deceiving however, we have actually added almost 100 acres of community parkland, but the population growth has outpaced our growth in parkland. Marion County has grown over 15% over the last five years, whereas the increase in community parkland has only been approximately 12.5%.

Township	Park Supply - Community Parks	Population	Acres per 1000
Center	381.8	167,055	2.3
Decatur	0.0	24,726	0.0
Franklin	0.0	32,080	0.0
Lawrence	0.0	111,961	0.0
Perry	62.5	92,838	0.7
Pike	109.9	71,465	1.5
Warren	117.0	93,941	1.2
Washington	151.5	132,927	1.1
Wayne	48.9	133,461	0.4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>871.7</b>	<b>860,454</b>	<b>0.8</b>

#### Neighborhood Park Standards

When you consider Neighborhood Parks, Indianapolis does provide more than the benchmark number of acres. When considering this figure, we have chosen to include the acreage for our Mini-Park classification as well. At 1.5 acres per 1,000 people, we have been able to meet and exceed the standards we set in 1999. Even though we have met this standard, we realize that with continued growth, we will have to constantly add to our existing number of parks. We do this by always looking for opportunities to place a new park in a neighborhood or add on to an existing park, especially in the underserved townships such as Perry, Pike and Washington.

Township	Park Supply - Neighborhood & Mini Parks	Population	Acres per 1000
Center	294.4	167,055	1.8
Decatur	25.4	24,726	1.0
Franklin	132.3	32,080	4.1
Lawrence	116.7	111,961	1.0
Perry	63.8	92,838	0.7
Pike	38.7	71,465	0.5
Warren	206.0	93,941	2.2
Washington	96.5	132,927	0.7
Wayne	198.1	133,461	1.5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>860,454</b>	<b>860,454</b>	<b>1.5</b>



## Greenways Mileage Standards

During the planning process for the last Comprehensive Plan, a greenways standard did not exist. One of the outcomes of that process established a new standard of .15 miles of greenways per 1,000 people. Here again, the growth of Indianapolis has outpaced the number of actual miles added to the greenways. While there are long-term plans for many more miles and connections within the county, the current state of built greenways falls short of our created standard. Currently, we have approximately .03 miles per 1,000 people.



Township	Park Supply - Greenways		Miles per 1000
	Greenways - Miles	Population	
Center	23.4	167,055	0.14
Decatur	0.0	24,726	0.00
Franklin	0.0	32,080	0.00
Lawrence	0.0	111,961	0.00
Perry	1.3	92,838	0.01
Pike	0.0	71,465	0.00
Warren	0.6	93,941	0.01
Washington	14.9	132,927	0.11
Wayne	0.5	133,461	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>860,454</b>	<b>0.03</b>



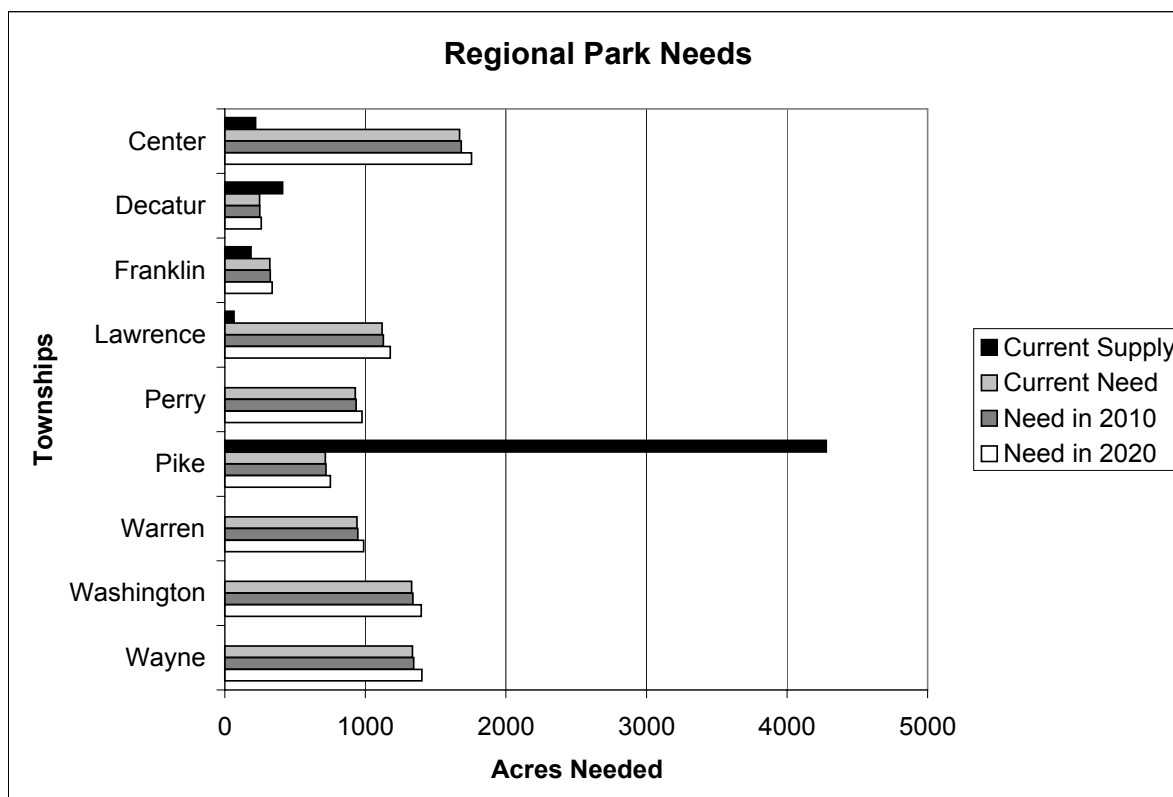
# Identified Needs

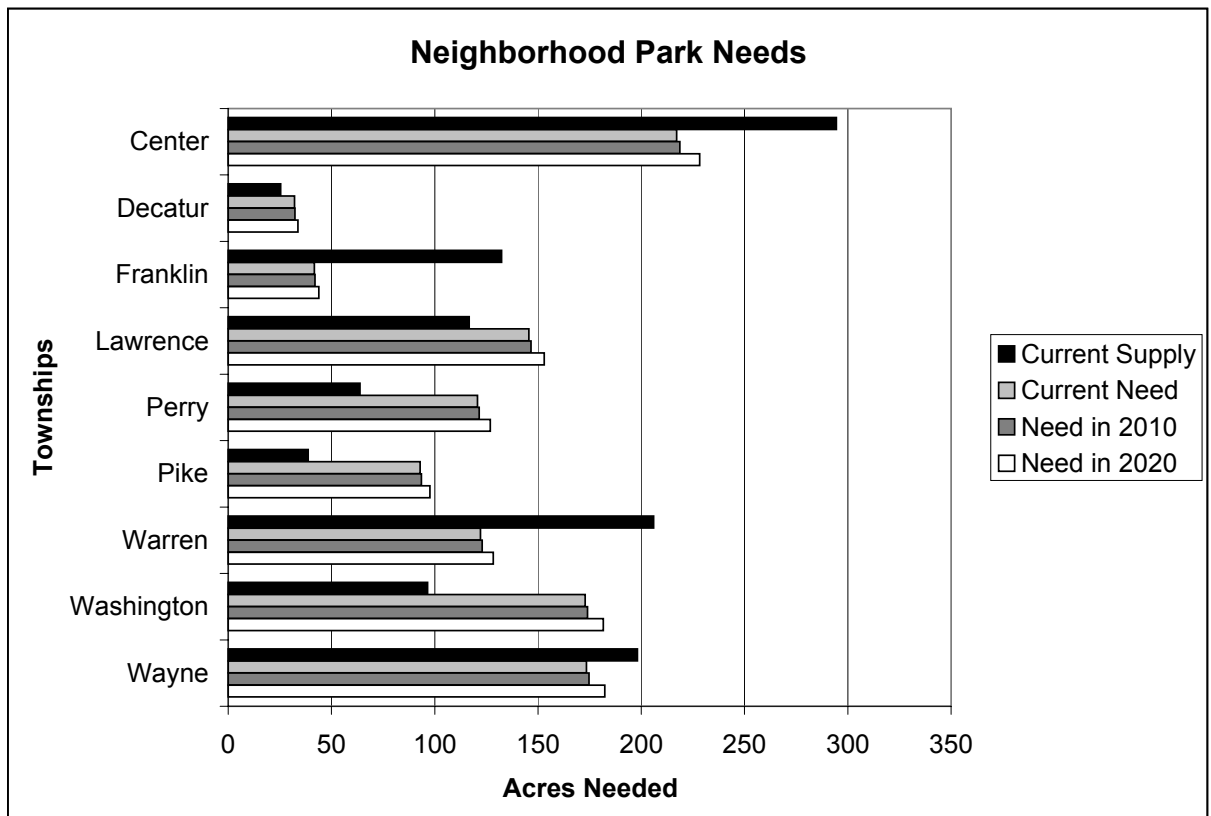
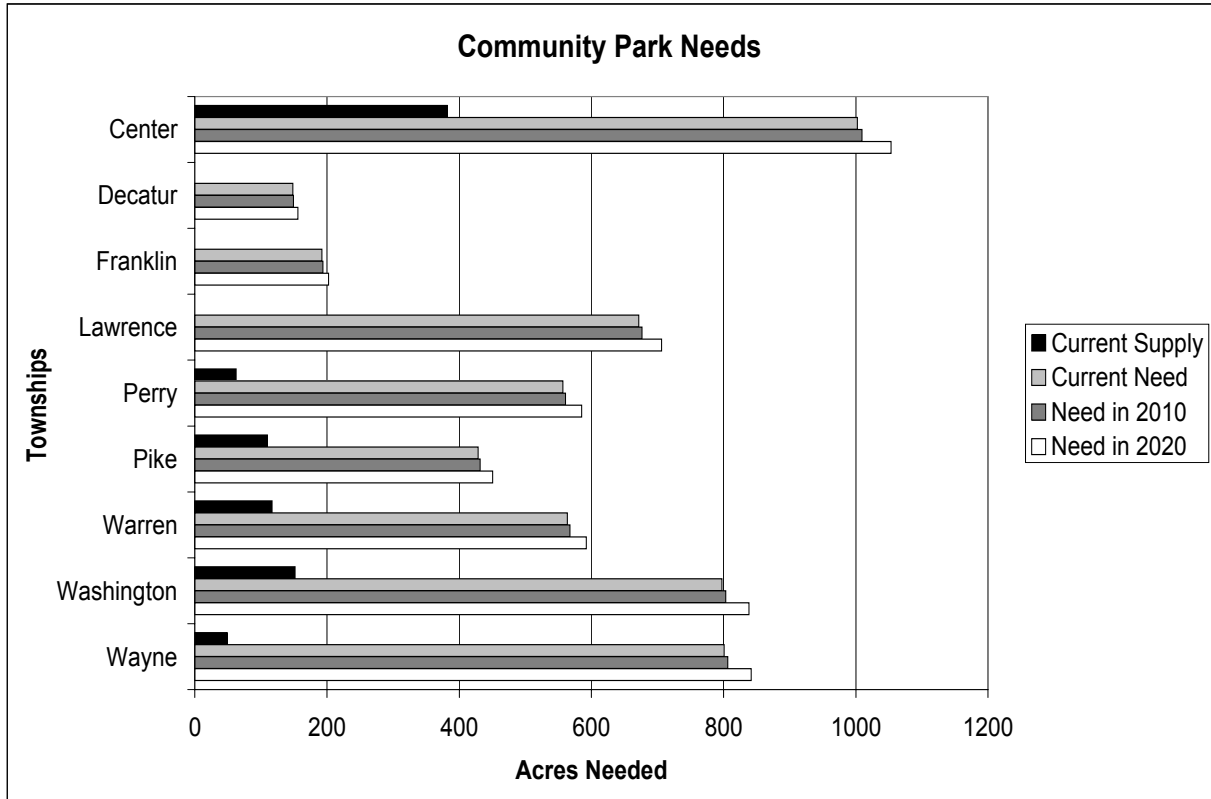
Park Acreage by Township (Total all Parkland)					
Township	Park Acreage	% of Total	Population	% of Total	Acres/1000
Center	2,105	16.7	167,055	19.4	12.6
Decatur	612	4.9	24,726	2.9	24.8
Franklin	318	2.5	32,080	3.7	9.9
Lawrence	2,297	18.2	111,961	13.0	20.5
Perry	296	2.3	92,838	10.8	3.2
Pike	4,920	39.0	71,465	8.3	68.8
Warren	722	5.7	93,941	10.9	7.7
Washington	798	6.3	132,927	15.4	6.0
Wayne	551	4.4	133,461	15.5	4.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12,618</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>860,454</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>

\* 17.5 average acres per 1000 people in Marion County

## NEEDS ANALYSIS CHARTS

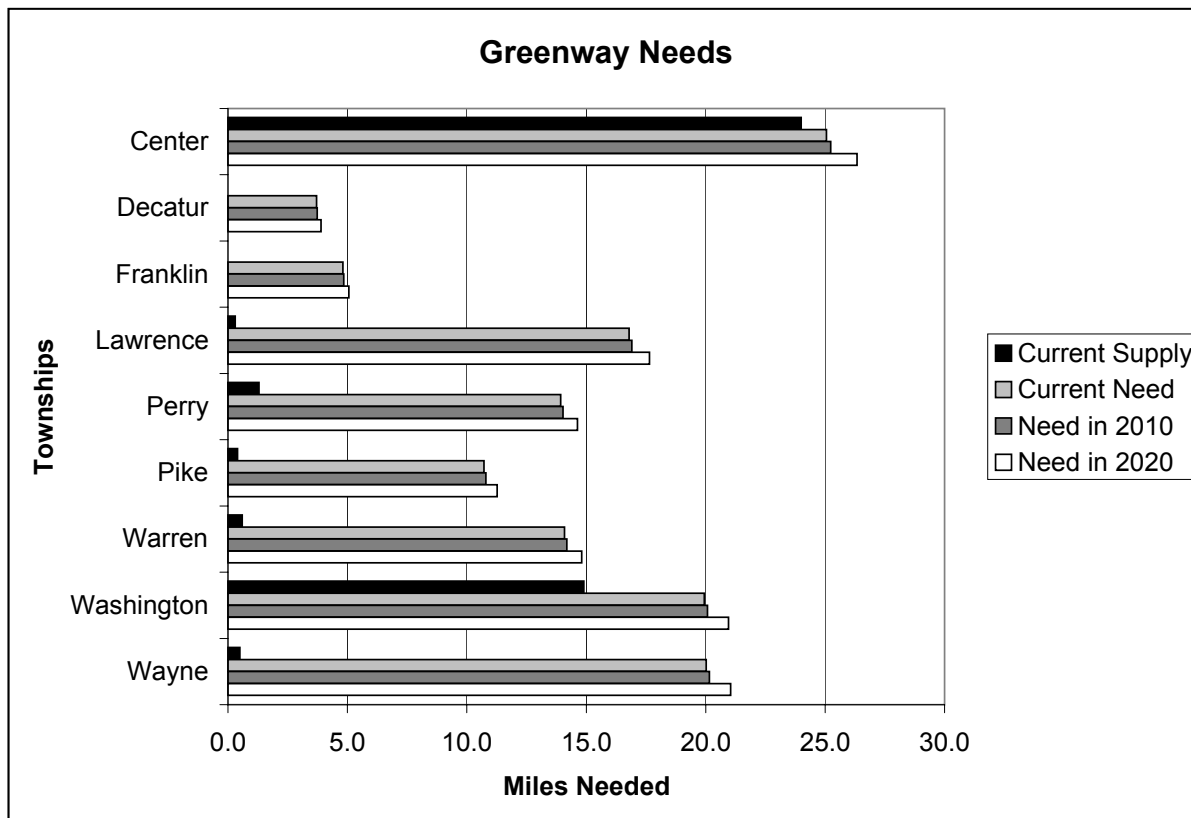
The following charts graphically illustrate the present supply and the future need for parks by township. The future needs are based upon the projected growth of Marion County.







# Identified Needs



## MAINTENANCE ANALYSIS

From the previous Comprehensive Plan update, completed in 1999, it was apparent that Indy Parks has an ongoing challenge when it comes to some maintenance issues. Overall, people who responded to our survey thought we did a good job with maintenance of our outdoor facilities. Specifically, 13% thought the level of maintenance was "Excellent" and 55% thought the level of maintenance was "Good." For our indoor facilities, the numbers were similar. 9% rated their level of maintenance "Excellent" while 59% rated it at "Good."

Although most respondents rated our pools "Excellent" or "Very Good." when asked specifically about which is the most important issue at our pool facilities, 17% said "Better Maintenance." Another area to be considered is our golf courses. When asked about which factor was most important when choosing a golf course, 14% said the "Condition of the Course." This is not a remarkably high number, but it ranked third behind "Location" and "Green Fees."



## BUDGET ANALYSIS

Overall, the table below clearly shows a steady increase in Indy Parks budget over the past eight years. A closer look reveals that the Operating and Programs budget increases at this same pace. However, maintenance budgets have been inconsistent, with increases of much lower levels. The portions of capital budgets funded out of the tax base have increased a small amount. The significant jumps here are due to infusions of grant funds. This sheds light on reasons for Indy Parks' Maintenance struggle to continue to maintain existing and newly added facilities.

Current grant support of various programs and services including after school, day camp and hub naturalist programs will eventually end. The Department will need to identify new funding sources, new partnerships, or other creative solutions to continuing these programs and services. Sustainability of grant supported initiatives is always a challenge. However, the success of these programs reflects the need within the community for continuation and expansion of these services.

	Total	Parks Maintenance	Operating/Programs	Capital Improvements
1995	\$17,700,000	\$7,600,000	\$8,900,000	\$1,200,000
1996	\$20,200,000	\$8,500,000	\$8,400,000	\$3,300,000
1997	\$22,300,000	\$8,100,000	\$10,900,000	\$3,300,000
1998	\$23,700,000	\$7,800,000	\$12,000,000	\$3,900,000
1999	\$28,977,715	\$7,256,326	\$14,217,076	\$7,504,313
2000	\$27,394,165	\$8,624,554	\$13,963,902	\$4,805,709
2001	\$28,055,131	\$9,217,759	\$15,693,243	\$3,144,129
2002	\$32,340,633	\$10,303,657	\$15,104,832	\$6,932,144
2003	\$34,939,046	\$9,917,007	\$17,642,404	\$7,379,635



# Identified Needs

## PUBLIC MEETING ANALYSIS

The planning process allowed for significant amounts of public input from Indianapolis - Marion County residents. Identified needs from these meetings have been categorized into six (6) broad categories. These categories are Stewardship and Environmental Education, Sustainability, Cultural Legacy, Mission Driven Services, Fitness and Health and Accessibility.

Needs identified in each category include:

1. Stewardship & Environmental Education
  - (a) Acquiring additional open space
  - (b) Preservation of natural resources
  - (c) Providing interpretive signage
  - (d) Develop additional Nature Centers
2. Sustainability
  - (a) Work to reduce utility costs
  - (b) Planning ahead for maintenance needs
  - (c) Anticipating future renovation costs
  - (d) Improving natural areas for long term stability
3. Cultural Legacy
  - (a) Celebrate the Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System, Kessler's legacy
  - (b) Provide programs directed at cultural enrichment for all
  - (c) Partner in Cultural Trail project
4. Mission Driven Services
  - (a) Protect parkland from interests that would seek to remove it from recreation uses
  - (b) Continue to partner with other agencies to provide services
  - (c) Work to develop special facilities such as Dog Parks and Mountain Bike trails
5. Fitness & Health
  - (a) Develop more programs and facilities intended to promote Fitness
  - (b) Promote and market opportunities for residents to engage in programs
6. Accessibility
  - (a) Expand services for disabled individuals
  - (b) Continue connecting trails and greenways to get residents safely to parks
  - (c) Work to engage minority populations in park programs

## SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Social and demographic trends identified in the Demographics chapter are significant impacts which must be anticipated when planning for Indy Parks. Among those trends that have been identified, the following will more than likely have a significant impact on Indy Parks operations.

Trend	Implication
An aging population	Indy Parks must address senior adult program needs as partner or service provider.
A more diverse population	Growing in terms of percentage and absolute numbers, Hispanic, black and other ethnic groups will require more services targeted toward their neighborhood or group.
Increasing demands from the disabled individuals	Concentrated in Wayne and Center townships, Indy Parks will need to adjust to requests for service from these individuals.
Continual outward urban development	As pressures to build new housing and other developments continue to work outward, Indy Parks will have to adjust service levels, provide additional services or determine limits on service provided in geographic areas.
Poverty concentrated in Center Township	Fairly significant concentration households with less than 75% of median household income exists within Center Township, and some bordering areas of Warren, Washington, and Wayne Townships requiring recreation subsidy, encouragement of park & facility use by residents.



## PUBLIC SURVEY ANALYSIS

The surveys administered are summarized in detail on page 16. In the most general sense, survey results indicate that Indy Parks is fulfilling its mission well. A great majority is pleased with many aspects of Indy Parks.

Facility supply, maintenance and locations are generally good. There are areas for improvement, most notably in maintenance of both indoor and outdoor facilities, where 34-37% of respondents could not indicate at least a 'good' impression. On the topic of park supply and location, 23% of residents felt that the number of parks was inadequate, and 45% of respondents do not have a park within a 10-minute walk of their home.

### Marketing and Public Relations

Most respondents indicated that newspapers or word of mouth as the primary method by which they learned about Indy Parks and Recreation. Further analysis of our local community and how they gain information will help to guide the department in how to best invest our marketing dollars. There were several questions that pointed to a lack of knowledge of Indy Parks and its programs as the reason that residents are not using parks. A careful look at Indy Parks' marketing techniques would be warranted.

### Outdoor Recreation Activities

Walking, hiking, cycling, taking the dog for a walk, nature study, and use of playground equipment are the top five outdoor recreation activities according to respondents. This is reflective of the many trails and natural areas in our parks, and the popularity of the 125 playgrounds offered throughout the park system. Golf, fishing, mountain biking and team sports rank 6-10 in popularity. Again this response can be tied to the existence of quality park facilities that provide for these uses.

General analysis of the outdoor recreation activity responses suggests that our community has a wide variety of needs and interests, and that they are actively utilizing existing facilities. Public comments in the community meetings indicated interests of specific user groups including the need for additional mountain bike areas, identification of a water skiing teaching facility, need for more outdoor athletic fields for soccer, baseball and rugby, additional aquatic centers and diversity of services at these, the need for more trails and greenways and overwhelmingly the

need for more park land. The public also expressed the need for more senior programming, more health and fitness related programs, and a more developed volunteer program.

### Indoor Recreation Activities

Fitness activities, reading, team sports, music and visual arts are the top five indoor recreation activities according to survey respondents. Adult educational classes, computer labs, drop-in basketball, and drama or theater classes ranked 6-10 in popularity. While some of these results were a little surprising, the results justify our current efforts to include fitness & weight rooms, library areas, computer labs, and gymnasiums in our new and renovated facilities. The results also reflect the high demand for arts programming within the city.

### Senior Programs

Survey results indicate a need for active programming, educational activities ranking second. Traditional social activities and day trips were rated lower, but still desirable.

### Accessibility

Only half of the respondents indicated that they had a park within a five or ten minute walk indicating the need for additional parks in the county.

Most respondents accessed park sites by automobile. This is reflected in occasional parking challenges when parks are reaching capacity use.

The majority of survey responses indicated that parks were physically accessible. Some comments indicated a need for physical improvements, better maintenance, and change in hours of operation.

### Aquatic Facilities

The rating for Aquatic Facilities was very good overall. Quality of facility, safety, professionalism of staff, and ease of fee collection had a 90% rating of good or better, with most responses in the very good category. Cleanliness, maintenance, quality of programs and hours of operation were rated 80% at good or better, again with most responses in the very good range.

### Family Centers

The overall rating of Family Centers was positive with most respondents rating services at very good and over 90% rating services good or better.

# Identified Needs

Over 90% of survey respondents indicated that the cleanliness and quality of the facility, quality of equipment and professionalism of staff were good or better with the majority rating at very good. The hours of operation, safety, maintenance, and information available showed 80% at good or better. Program quality, ease of fee collection, friendliness of staff and usefulness of brochures were rated with 90% at good or better.

## Golf Courses

85% of respondents rated golf courses good or better in all categories, with the exception of quality of service, which showed a 72% rating of good or better. Generally, 20% rated the golf courses at excellent, 40% rated them at very good, 30% at good with the remainder saying just okay or poor.

Respondents	Type of Response
22.	Please list the name of the aquatic facility which you, or your household, use most frequently?
16%	Krannert Park
14%	Non-Indy Parks Facility
14%	Northwestway Park
11%	Eagle Creek Reservoir
10%	Indy Island
7%	Thatcher Park
6%	Garfield Park
4%	Broad Ripple Park
4%	Perry Park
3%	Ellenberger Park
3%	Sahm Park
3%	Riverside Park
1%	Gustafson Park
1%	LaShonna Bates Aquatic C
1%	Brookside Park
1%	Rhodius Park
1%	Wes Montgomery Park
1%	White River

Respondents	Type of Response
28.	Please list the name of the family center which you, or your household, use most frequently?
17%	Krannert Park
16%	Eagle Creek Park
13%	Broad Ripple Park
13%	Garfield Park
10%	Holliday Park
9%	Non Indy Parks Facilities
5%	Southeastway park
5%	Thatcher Park
3%	Riverside Park
2%	Christian Park
2%	Municipal Gardens Park
2%	Watkins
1%	Brookside
1%	Indy Island
1%	Pride Park
1%	Rhodius Park

Respondents	Type of Response
36.	Please list the name of the golf course which you, or your household, use most frequently?
32%	Eagle Creek
14%	Non Indy Parks Facilities
10%	Pleasant Run
10%	Riverside
8%	Sahm
6%	Coffin
5%	Thatcher
4%	Sarah Shank
4%	South Grove
4%	Winding River
2%	Douglass
2%	Smock
1%	Riverside Academy
1%	Whispering Hills









# Identified Needs

Program Services Comparison with Select Cities

Select City	Aquatics	Arts/Music	Personal Development	Dance	Environ. Ed	Ice Skating	Drop in Activities	Sports	Fitness	After School	Day Camp	Special Events	Rentals
Cincinnati	Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y	P,Y	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S
Columbus	P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,S	Y,S	Y	Y	P,Y	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y	Y	P,Y,A,S	A,S
Detroit													
Minneapolis	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y,A	P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y	Y	Y,A,S	Y,A,S
Portland	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y,A	na	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A	Y,A,S	Y	Y	Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S
San Francisco	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y,A	P,Y,A			P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y	Y	Y,A,S	
St. Louis	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	P,Y	P,Y,A,S	Y,A	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S	Y	Y	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S
Seattle	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	na	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y	Y	Y,A,S	Y,A,S
Milwaukee													
Houston	P,Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y	Y,A,S	na	Y,A,S	Y,A	Y,A,S	Y	Y	P,Y,A,S	P,Y,A,S
Atlanta													
Indianapolis	Y,A,S	Y	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y,A,S	Y	Y	Y,A,S	Y,A,S

Key: P=Preschool ages 0-5 Y=Youth Services ages 6-17 A=Adult Services ages 18-55 S=Senior Services 56+

## PROGRAM SERVICES ANALYSIS

Indy Parks and Recreation offers a wide variety of recreational programs and services that appeal to the varied interests and age demographics of the community. In comparison to other cities of similar size and demographics, Indianapolis ranks high in program offerings. Utilizing standard categories and age groups, the analysis shows Indy Parks and Recreation providing for all program areas, with the exception of some shortfalls in musical programs.

The deficit of music programming was identified in the 1999 Master Plan. The department has made strides to bring music into our after school and day camp programs and musical concerts to more park sites. Future construction and development of the new Indy Parks' Arts Center will provide additional resources for all categories of art programming and stimulate additional outreach programs into our Family Centers across the City.

A closer analysis of recreational program offerings by site suggests that the diversity of programming is not reflected at all locations. Staff at the Family Centers base most of their program offerings on past practice and performance rather than on community input, national trends or changes in community demographics. The result is a focus of programming in one or two areas that have been proven to be successful programs in the past.

Diversity in programming can be affected by limitations of the facility design, expertise of the staff at that location, and available resources to hire instructors. Some Family Centers are at capacity with the programming they are currently providing and would need to cut back in some existing services in order to expand and diversify their program offerings. There is also the existence of other recreation providers who are offering services in the area that we do not want to compete with.

Indy Parks and Recreation will need to continue to monitor the diversity of program offerings at different park locations, and seek ways to diversify program offerings when appropriate. Items that may improve program diversity include:

- Expanding partnerships with other recreation providers in the community
- Facility renovations that provide opportunity for program diversity

nity for program diversity

- Non-traditional funding mechanisms used to hire instructors
- Study of regional and national trends in recreation
- Further development of Park Advisory Councils
- Increased interaction with neighborhood organizations
- Increased use of community surveys versus participant surveys



## SERVICE AREA MAPS

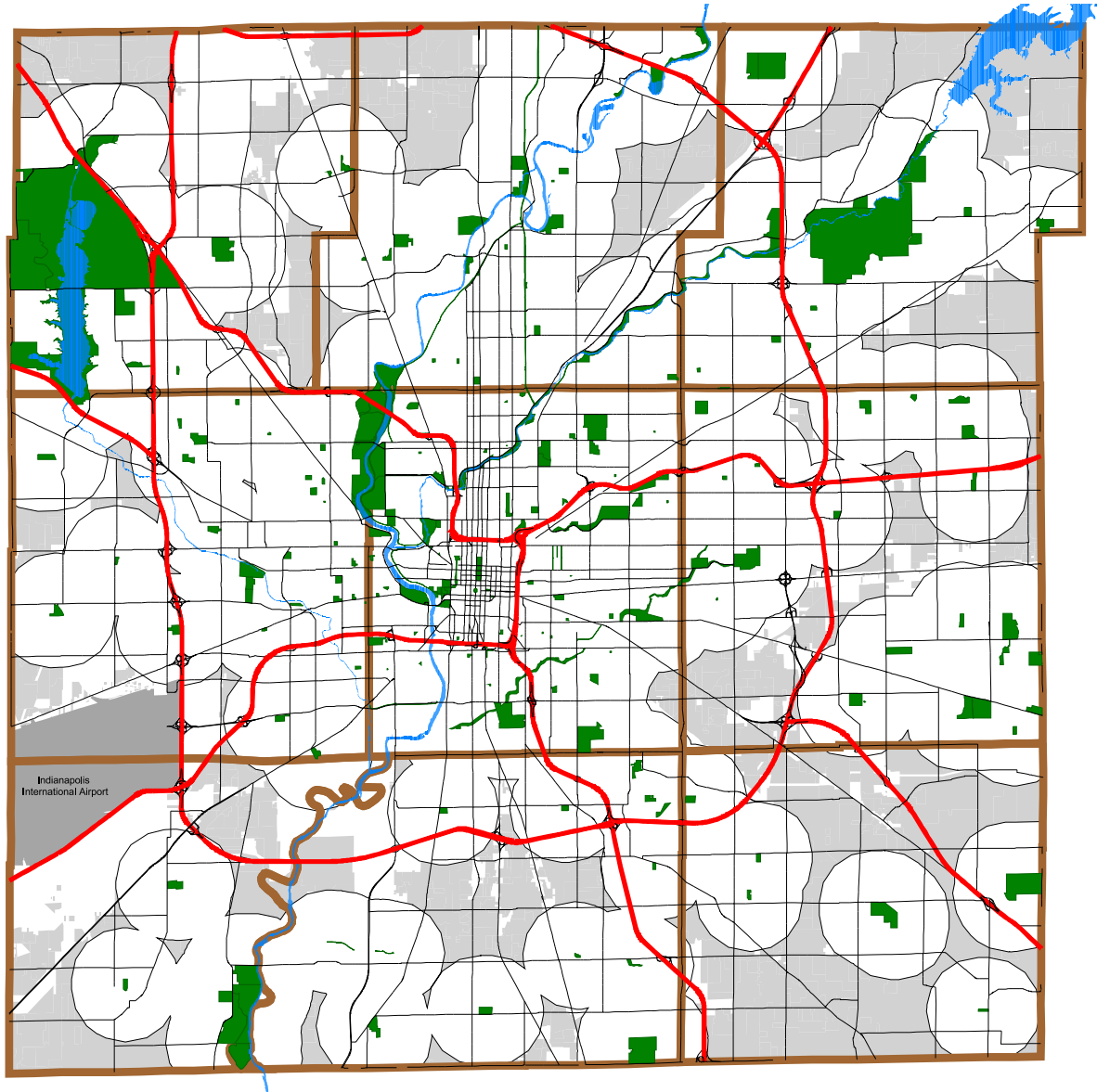
The following series of maps illustrate the service area for various parks within the Indy Parks system. The radii for the Service Areas was determined using nationally accepted standards for individual park types.

Dark grey areas are park facilities, operated by either Indy Parks or another governmental agency. Areas in white are either within the service area of an existing facility, or are of a non-residential zoning type. Areas lightly shaded are residentially zoned, and not within a park facilities service area. These are termed underserved areas and should be a target for park system expansion through acquisition, construction or partnerships.

1. All Public Parks
2. Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks & Greenways
3. Multi-Use Gymnasiums
4. Pools & Aquatic Centers
5. Significant Natural Features

# Identified Needs

## Service Areas All Public Parks in Marion County



- All Public Parks within Marion County
- Service Area - 1 Mile Radius
- Under-Served Residential Areas

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

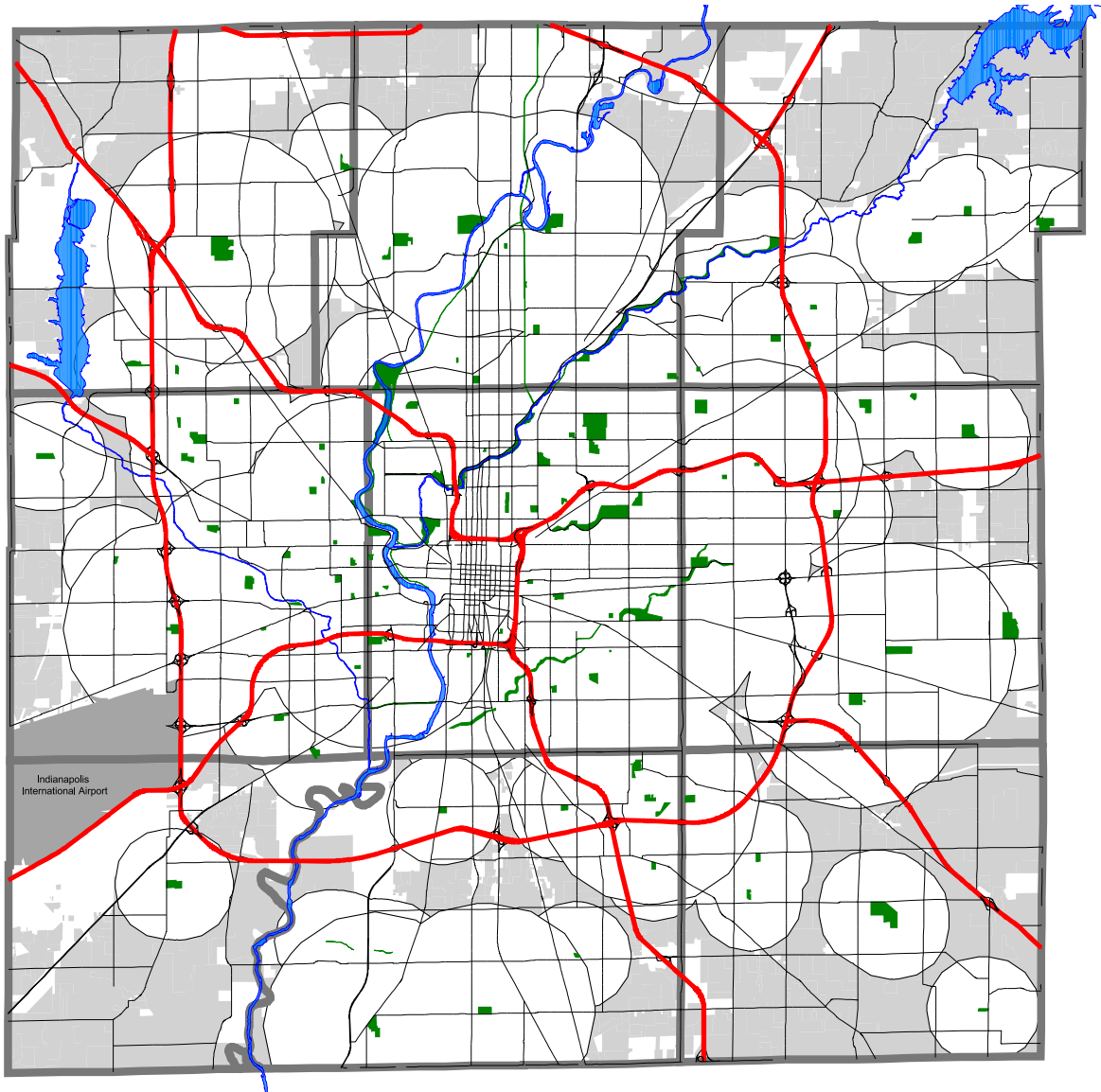
Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems





## Service Areas

### Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks & Greenways



- Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks & Greenways
- Service Areas
  - Community Parks - 2 Mile Radius
  - Neighborhood Parks - 1 Mile Radius
  - Greenways - 1 Mile Radius
- Under-Served Residential Areas

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

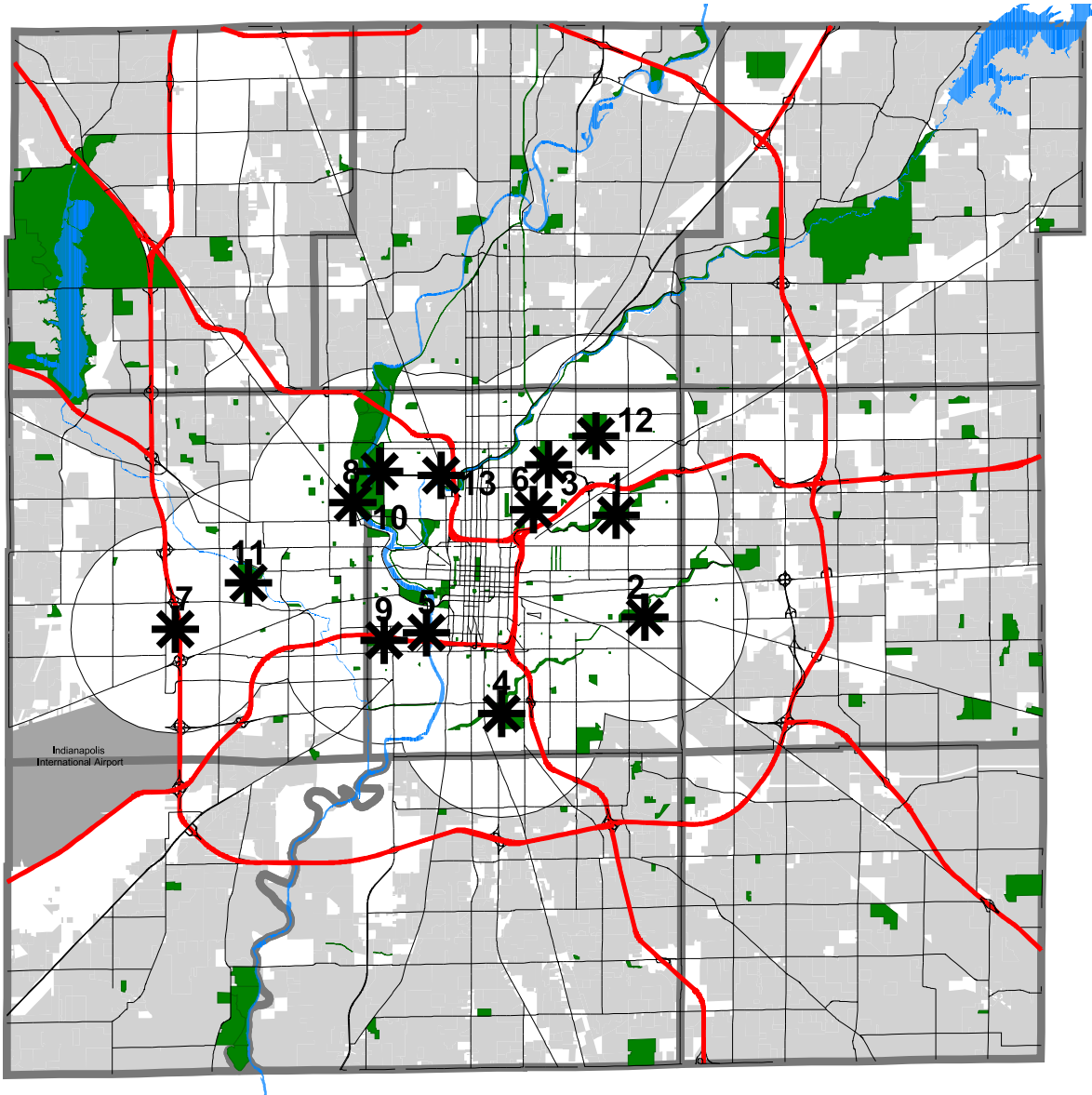
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Geographic Information Systems



# Identified Needs

## Service Areas Indoor Multi-Use Gymnasiums



- Parks
- Service Area - 2 Mile Radius
- Under-Served Residential Areas



### Indoor Multi-Use Gymnasiums

- 1 - Brookside Park
- 2 - Christian Park
- 3 - Douglass Park
- 4 - Garfield Park
- 5 - IPS School #47
- 6 - JTV Hill Park
- 7 - Krannert Park
- 8 - Municipal Gardens
- 9 - Rhodius Park
- 10 - Riverside Park
- 11 - Thatcher Park
- 12 - Washington Park
- 13 - Watkins Park

1 0 1 2 3 Miles



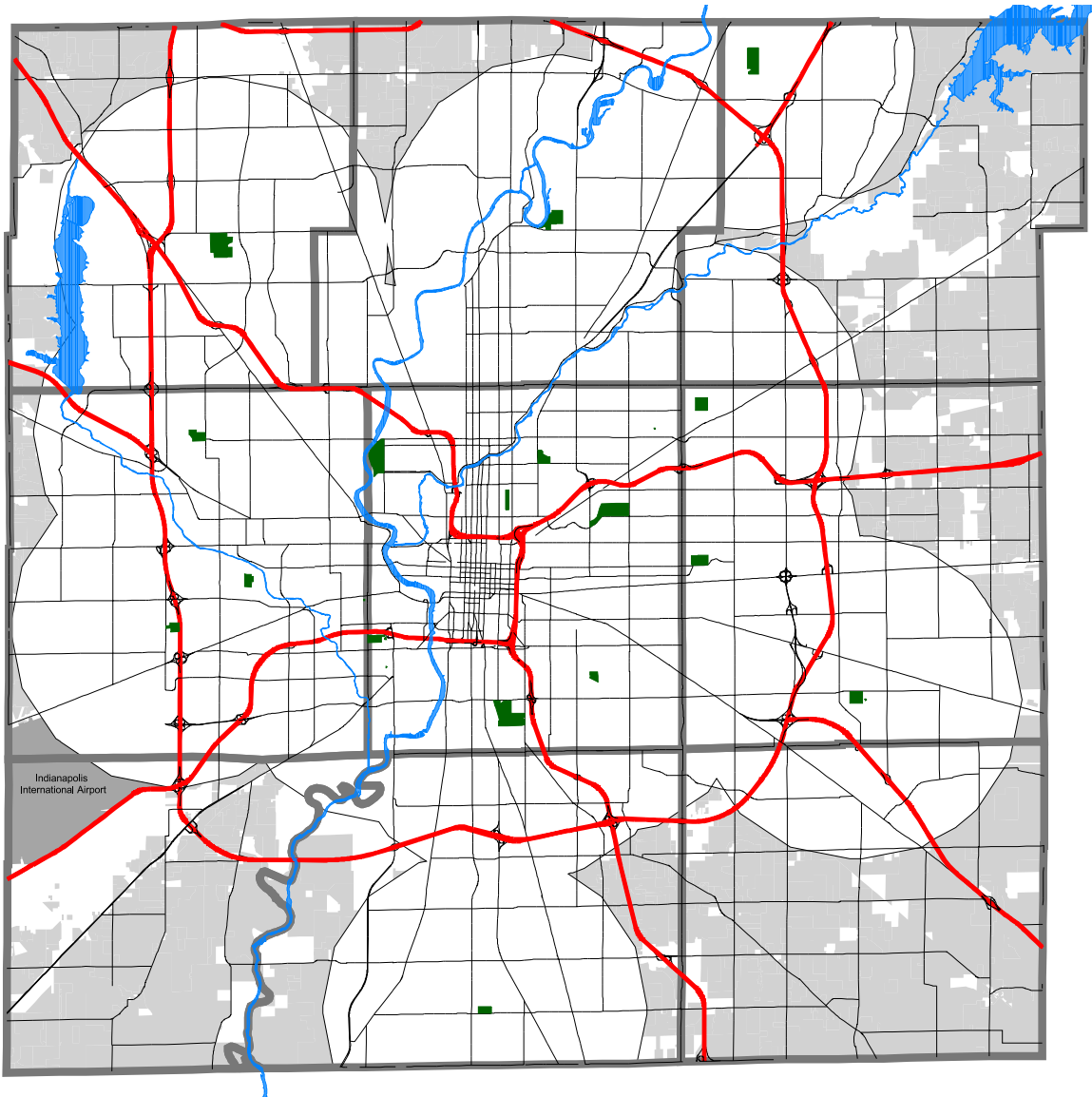
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

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



Service Areas  
Pools & Aquatic Centers



-  Pools & Aquatic Centers
-  Service Area - 3 Mile Radius
-  Under Served Residential Areas

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

February 5, 2004

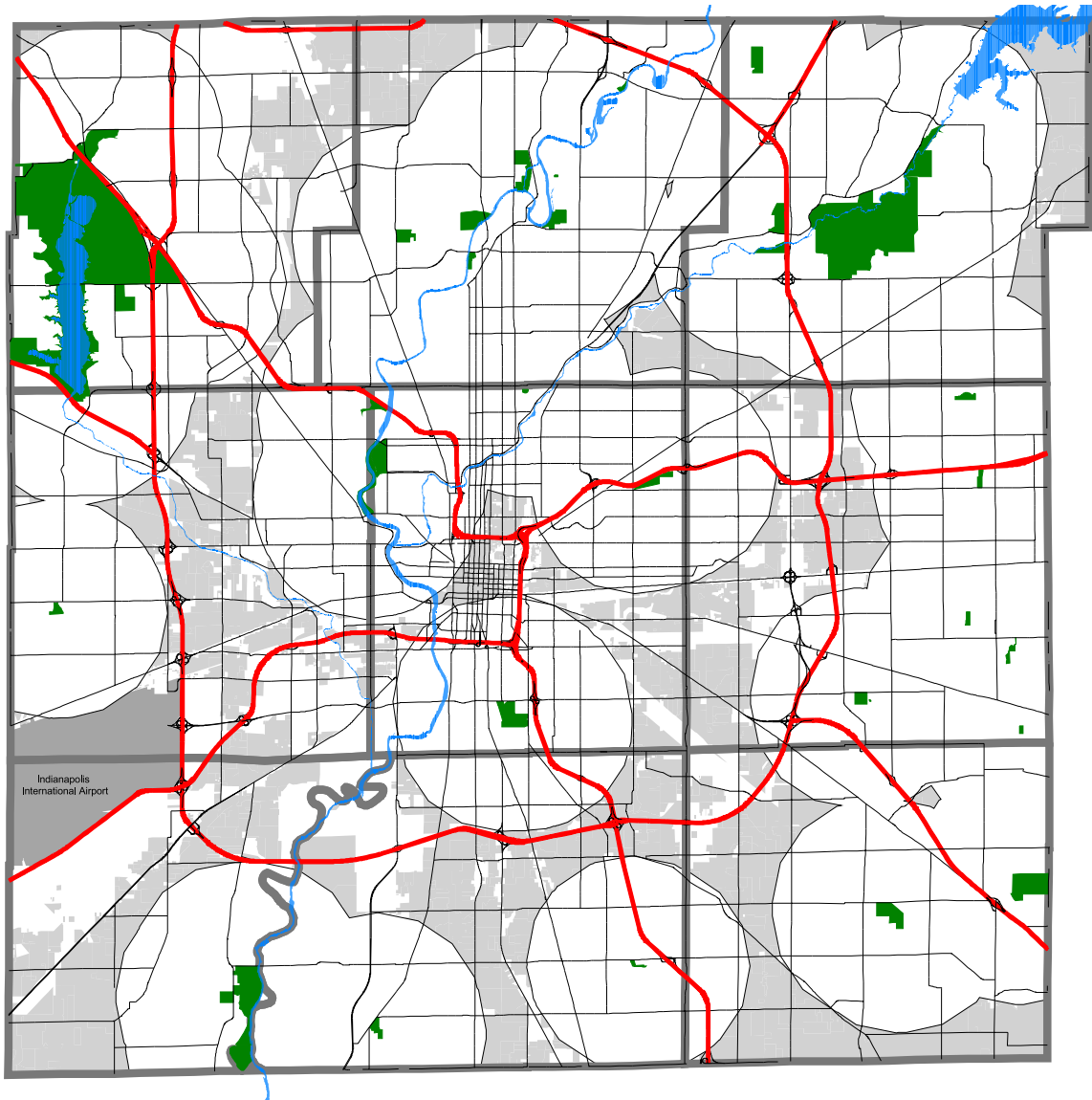
Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems








# Identified Needs

## Service Areas Significant Natural Features



-  Parks with Significant Natural Features
-  Service Area - 2 mile radius
-  Under-Served Residential Areas

1 0 1 2 3 Miles

February 5, 2004

Produced By: DPR Planning

Data Source: The City of Indianapolis  
Geographic Information Systems



## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STATUS

### 1992

The 1992 Comprehensive Plan identified a total of 82 issues, and from these issues, 119 Action Steps were created, with some issues listed under more than one Action Step. As of 1999, the following results were observed:

14 of the 82 Issues were completed  
 29 of 82 were still in progress  
 39 of 82 had not been done

### 1999

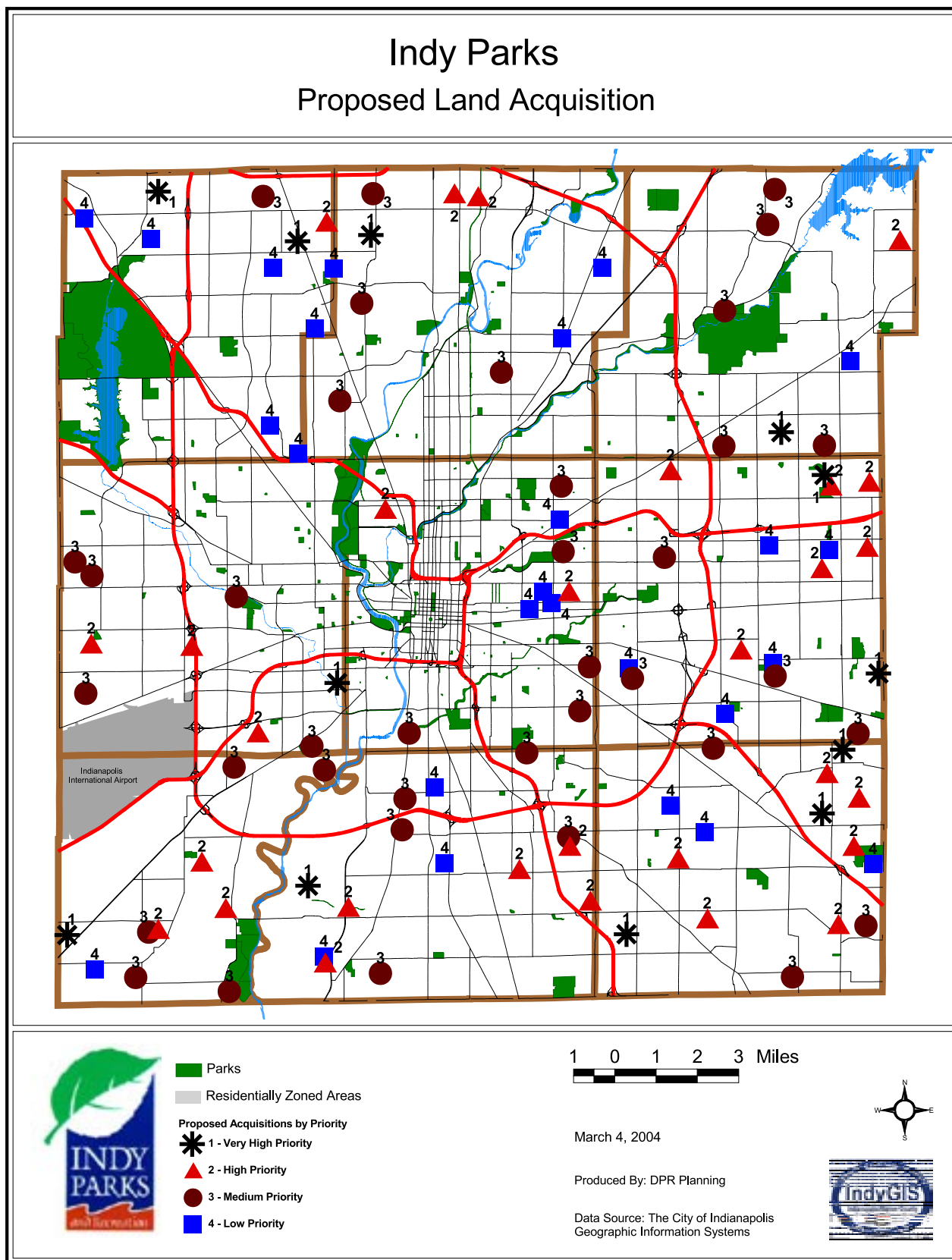
From the 1999 Comprehensive Plan, there were 113 Action Steps generated as a result of the plan. 63% of the 1999 Plan's actions were completed and documented. 23% of the actions were at least begun, but are incomplete at this time. The remaining 13% are either beyond the control of Indy Parks to complete or have been removed from the Plan. In hindsight, 113 actions were too many for Indy Parks staff to both accomplish effectively and to track accurately.

## LAND ACQUISITION

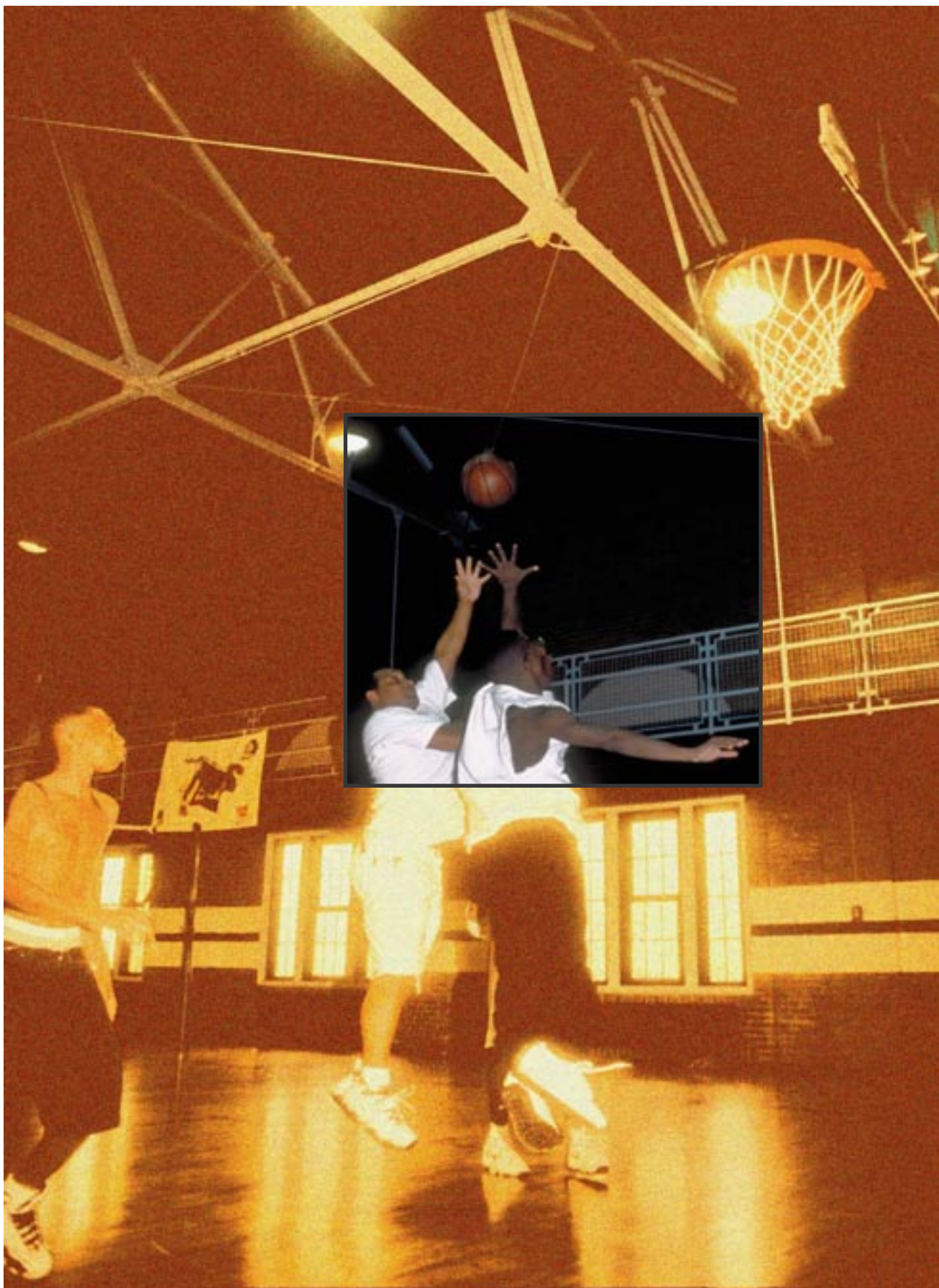
The map on the following page shows the general location of properties that Indy Parks considers suitable for parkland. These properties may be mostly wooded or open, but overall have characteristics suitable for a park or natural area. Often, due to budget constraints, Indy Parks does not actively pursue a specific piece of property without a willing seller. Many of Indy Parks' recent land acquisitions have been made possible through gifts or grants. In many cases, a combination of gifting, grants and capital improvement funds have to be amassed in order to acquire new parkland. The following chart shows the amount of property acquired over the last few years and the method by which it was acquired.

INDY PARKS LAND ACQUISITION: 1990 TO PRESENT						
ACRES ACQUIRED	YEAR	YEAR END TOTAL	PURCHASED	DONATED	DEVELOPER DONATION	OTHER
	1989	9598.0				
41.4	1990	9639.4	39.9			0.5
0.0	1991	9639.4				
29.7	1992	9669.1		29.4		
2.0	1993	9671.0				1.0
129.5	1994	9800.6				129.5
42.3	1995	9842.9	22.0	17.3		3.1
0.0	1996	9842.9				
60.8	1997	9903.7	59.9	0.7		0.3
0.2	1998	9903.9		0.2		
97.0	1999	10000.9			56.8	40.2
161.2	2000	10162.1	74.7	60.9		25.6
42.4	2001	10204.5	23.9	2.3	13.2	3.0
120.0	2002	10324.5	101.0	19.0		
145.3	2003	10469.8	86.7	1.0	12.3	45.4
11.0	2004	10480.8		11.0		
<b>882.8</b>		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>408.1</b>	<b>141.7</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>248.5</b>

# Identified Needs







# Implementation and Action Plan

## INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive park plan has many different purposes. Among these purposes is the identification of specific actions to be taken to address identified needs. These actions should be accompanied by a timeline for completion and designation of a responsible party. This section of the planning document is referred to by many titles, such as implementation or action plan.

## ACTION PLAN

The following spreadsheet includes the actions developed by this planning process. These actions apply to all nine divisions of Indy Parks and are planned for the years 2004 to 2008. These actions have grown from the Identified Needs section of this document, and are based on the opinions and ideas detailed in the Public Participation section.

An effort was made to select Action Plan items that will be truly strategic in nature. It is the desire of parks' staff to include Actions that will target specific tasks or areas of the Department and improve the delivery of services.

## Evaluation

Recognizing that not all strategies and actions proposed in this plan can anticipate the future, actual costs, or changing opportunities that may present themselves, the Action Plan is the recommended Plan to follow for Indy Parks, its Board and other supporting committees and Departments that work with Indy Parks.

## Priorities

The actions steps that follow are organized under six major headings. Several of these are repeated from the previous plan, while several others reflect community input and administration priorities. These are:

- Sustainability and Environmental Education
- Stewardship
- Cultural Legacy
- Mission Driven Services
- Fitness and Health
- Accessibility.

It is also recognized that there are a number of actions that have become a part of everyday business for Indy Parks, but that are of sufficient importance to be included in an Ongoing list. This list is not to be viewed as a list of action items, but rather as a reminder of the public's wishes for continued success.

The timeline in the specific Action Plan is established as guidance for each action with all resources, constraints and opportunities being equal. The donation of monies for specific causes, availability of grants with specific requirements or the changing interests of the citizens of Indianapolis-Marion County can change this initial prioritization. The alteration of the timeline must be allowed and it is clearly the responsibility of Department leadership. The alterations, however, should not stray from the vision and mission of Indy Parks.



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST

Following the Action Plan is a seven page list of Indy Parks' planned capital projects over the next five years. The 2004 list is active, with many projects underway. The 2005-2008 lists are less specific. Final decisions will be made about which projects to pursue after the first of 2005, and each following year.

This list is based upon the assumption of a \$3.5 million capital budget, funded out of Marion County's tax base. This has been the case in recent years, with 2004 being the exception at \$2.8 million.

At the end of this section is a list of projects that will only happen with additional funding sources. This can be seen as Indy Parks' wish list or a list of projects to be presented to grantors.

# Implementation and Action Plan

#	ACTION CATEGORY	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	COMPLETION DATE	COST
	<b>Stewardship &amp; Environmental Education</b>			
<b>1</b>	Create design standards for park signage including entrance, internal and interpretive signage, as well as historic designations.	Environmental Education / Resource Development	2006	Within Existing Resources
<b>2</b>	Provide signage to interpret the natural, cultural or historic features of parks.	Environmental Education / Resource Development	2008	Existing Resources / Grants
<b>3</b>	Develop Resource Management Plans for parks with significant natural areas.	Land Stewardship / Resource Development	2005	Within Existing Resources
<b>4</b>	Encourage and educate private property owners on the importance of preserving their natural lands and habitats.	Greenways / Resource Development	2006	Within Existing Resources
<b>5</b>	Implement strategies identified by Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Acquisition.	Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>6</b>	Seek to acquire land adjacent to parks that are operating at full capacity.	Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>7</b>	Aggressively pursue a land acquisition program in rapidly developing areas of Marion County.	Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>8</b>	Seek land acquisition possibilities in densely built areas of county such as Washington, Perry and Center Townships.	Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>9</b>	Provide additional Nature Center facilities in at least one large Natural Resource Park such as Southeastway, Southwestway and Skiles Test Parks.	Environmental Education / Resource Development	2007	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>10</b>	Update the 1999 Environmental Education Master Plan.	Environmental Education / Resource Development	2004	Within Existing Resources



# Implementation and Action Plan

#	ACTION CATEGORY	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	COMPLETION DATE	COST
	<b>Sustainability</b>			
11	Act as a leader in the area of brownfield re-use, focused on park and open space development.	Greenways / Resource Development	2005	Within Existing Resources
12	Consider a variety of users in the design of trails, including pedestrians, horses, bicycles and others.	Greenways / Resource Development	2005	Within Existing Resources
13	Develop Memorandums of Understanding with school corporations and other organizations to share facilities and provide recreation programming during times of non-usage by the partner.	Partnerships	2005	Within Existing Resources
14	Implement a program to evaluate electric lighting in parks to identify usage that can be safely reduced.	Finance / Resource Development / Risk Management	2004	Within Existing Resources
15	Implement a program to reduce acreage in mowing.	Facility Maintenance / Resource Development	2004	Existing Resources / Grants
16	Implement an internal recycling program in selected facilities and offices for paper, plastic and metal waste.	Environmental Education	2006	Existing Resources / Grants
17	Inventory plant material at key facilities and implement a reforestation plan in order to maintain this resource.	Forestry / Greenways / Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants
18	Plan carefully to assure that new facilities can be maintained and operated with existing Department resources.	Facility Maintenance / Resource Development	2004	Within Existing Resources
	<b>Cultural Legacy</b>			
19	Continue to expand opportunities for residents to participate in cultural events, including concerts and movies in parks.	Community Recreation / Greenways	2006	Existing Resources / Grants
20	Develop public art in Indianapolis by identifying assets, locations for future work and funding or partnerships to implement projects.	Greenways / Resource Development	2006	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
21	Participate with sister agencies and non-profits in developing and operating the Cultural Trail.	Greenways / Resource Development	2006	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
22	Plan cultural activities to include baby boomer generation entering retirement.	Community Recreation	2005	Within Existing Resources
23	Raise awareness of the history of Indianapolis' Park system (e.g. George Kessler's Plan, historical landmarks.)	Greenways / Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants
24	Work to preserve and enhance the integrity of Kessler's Indianapolis Park and Boulevard System as placed on the National Register of Historic Places, beginning with development of a system resource manual for all City agencies.	Greenways / Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
25	Work to restore historic and cultural assets such as the Taggart Memorial, Indy Parks (Garfield) Arts Center and Peace Memorial at MLK Park.	Resource Development	2004	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors

# Implementation and Action Plan

#	ACTION CATEGORY	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	COMPLETION DATE	COST
	<b>Mission Driven Services</b>			
<b>26</b>	Achieve accreditation in our day camp programs with American Camping Association.	Community Recreation	2004	Within Existing Resources
<b>27</b>	Advocate for parks and open space in employment center and residential area design through the rezoning process. Emphasize their value to economic development, attracting and keeping jobs and improved quality of life.	Greenways / Resource Development	2004	Within Existing Resources
<b>28</b>	Work to provide parks and open space opportunities near existing employment centers through partnerships or acquisition.	Resource Development	2006	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>29</b>	Build the Park Watch program to engage communities in keeping parks safe.	Park Rangers	2004	Within Existing Resources
<b>30</b>	Continue canine companion zone's success in eastern and southern portions of Marion County.	Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>31</b>	Develop a Comprehensive Program Master Plan to guide program offerings for the next 5 years.	Community Recreation / Resource Development	2004	Within Existing Resources
<b>32</b>	Establish internal training programs for 'supervisors in training' and 'managers in training.'	Community Recreation / Environmental Education / Sports & Special Facilities	2005	Within Existing Resources
<b>33</b>	Identify efficient methods to market and advertise recreational programs and services to the public.	Marketing	2005	Within Existing Resources
<b>34</b>	Increase partnerships and opportunities to extend services to minority communities and people with disabilities.	Partnerships	2005	Within Existing Resources
<b>35</b>	Initiate a pilot project to install a permanent restroom facility in an appropriate park.	Resource Development	2006	Within Existing Resources
<b>36</b>	Institute the use of non-reverting accounts as a method to grow park programs and services.	Community Recreation / Finance	2005	Within Existing Resources
<b>37</b>	Partner with user groups by providing land and expertise toward developing additional sports fields in areas where existing fields are at capacity.	Partnerships / Resource Development	2007	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>38</b>	Recognize and incorporate older residents into volunteer and work opportunities.	Partnerships	2007	Within Existing Resources
<b>39</b>	Re-core and re-issue keys to all Indy Parks facilities to ensure a high level of security at Indy Parks facilities.	Risk Management	2005	Within Existing Resources
<b>40</b>	Research opportunities to expand recreational services into underserved areas, such as outlying townships.	Community Recreation / Partnerships	2006	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
<b>41</b>	Strongly discourage the taking of parkland for non-park purposes; any taking of parkland should be at market value, lease arrangement or trade for land in the same service area.	Resource Development	2004	Within Existing Resources

# Implementation and Action Plan

#	ACTION CATEGORY	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	COMPLETION DATE	COST
	<b>Mission Driven Services</b>			
42	Update the Emergency Action Plan in place for each Indy Parks facility using a standardized format throughout Department.	Risk Management	2006	Within Existing Resources
43	Work with partners to seek and develop additional facilities for mountain biking in Marion County.	Resource Development	2006	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
44	Assist special interest groups with locating existing recreational facilities for their use.	Resource Development	2008	Within Existing Resources
45	Work with school groups to find alternate locations for Cross Country uses to relieve pressure on park facilities.	Resource Development	2007	Within Existing Resources
	<b>Fitness &amp; Health</b>			
46	Assist with and take part in the development of a city-wide fitness web site.	Marketing	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
47	Promote fitness through programs in both active and natural parks.	Community Recreation / Environmental Education / Sports & Special Facilities	2006	Within Existing Resources
48	Use incentive programs such as a Mayoral commitment program to encourage fitness.	Community Recreation / Sports & Special Facilities	2006	Within Existing Resources
49	Design aquatic centers for adult interests as well as youth and family facilities.	Aquatics / Resource Development	2008	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
50	Develop a fitness guide listing all Indy Parks and Recreation fitness oriented programs, activities and services.	Community Recreation	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
51	Expand partnership with School Corporations to utilize gymnasiums and athletic facilities after hours.	Community Recreation / Sports & Special Facilities	2006	Within Existing Resources
52	Plan and construct more trails within park properties for walking, jogging, rollerblading.	Resource Development	2007	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
53	Plan program activities to include baby boomer generation entering retirement, (more active programs).	Community Recreation / Environmental Education / Sports & Special Facilities	2006	Within Existing Resources
54	Promote use of bicycles over cars by advocating for bike lanes on Marion County's roads.	Greenways	2008	Within Existing Resources



# Implementation and Action Plan

#	ACTION CATEGORY	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	COMPLETION DATE	COST
	<b>Accessibility</b>			
55	Better utilize public access television, Channel 16, to include public in parks planning efforts.	Marketing / Resource Development	2004	Within Existing Resources
56	Complete greenways trails that have been started to fulfill commitments to those neighborhoods.	Greenways / Resource Development	2006	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
57	Expand the volume of services to individuals with disabilities including new program offerings for therapeutic, rehabilitation, inclusion and self contained programs.	Community Recreation	2006	Within Existing Resources
58	Explore the potential for distance learning opportunities in parks to support and compliment park based educational programs.	Environmental Education	2008	Within Existing Resources
59	Formalize a network of park professionals both in Indiana and nationally to strategize with and share ideas for program and park accessibility.	Community Recreation	2005	Within Existing Resources
60	Improve access to Indy Parks Youth Golf Program, by relocating to a Center Township site.	Golf / Resource Development	2005	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
61	Plan for continuing successful greenways program into Decatur, Perry and Franklin Townships through the use of Connectivity Plans.	Greenways / Resource Development	2006	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
62	Simplify paperwork for recreation program scholarship initiative by sharing information with other service agencies.	Community Recreation / Finance	2005	Within Existing Resources
63	Work closely with Indy Go to increase public transportation opportunities to park locations.	Greenways / Resource Development	2004	Within Existing Resources
64	Work to engage all minority communities in city parks and park programs.	Community Recreation / Environmental Education / Sports & Special Facilities	2004	Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
65	Work to provide additional public access to our waterways.	Greenways / Resource Development	2007	Within Existing Resources

# Implementation and Action Plan

#	ACTION CATEGORY	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	COMPLETION DATE	COST
	Ongoing			
1	Actively maintain a prioritized list of potential park acquisitions within Marion County.	Resource Development		Within Existing Resources
2	Continue staff training and development programs according to national standards in the Park and Recreation field. This should include such things as testing, certification, and continuing education opportunities.	Administration		Within Existing Resources
3	Continue to advocate for and emphasize the importance of including trails and pathways when widening roads and replacing bridges within Marion County.	Greenways		Within Existing Resources
4	Continue to aggressively seek grants to support Indy Parks efforts in programming, maintenance and capital improvement.	Grants		Existing Resources / Grants
5	Continue to develop partnerships that encourage a sense of stewardship and a standard of care for all natural and cultural resources.	Environmental Education / Partnerships		Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
6	Continue to implement non-traditional methods for parkland acquisition as identified in the Trust for Public Lands' report such as recreation easements, temporary parks, tax-abatement incentives, developer donations and utilizing and acquiring non-park open space.	Finance / Resource Development		Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
7	Continue to improve natural areas on City golf courses as wildlife habitat and explore their value for Environmental Education.	Golf / Environmental Education		Within Existing Resources
8	Continue to partner with the Marion County Health Department and other city health providers to grow and expand the Indy in Motion Program.	Community Recreation / Sports & Special Facilities		Within Existing Resources
9	Continue to put into practice baseline standards for each park and resource type, including the provision of programs, facilities, acreage, service area, funding sources, and long term capital improvements.	Resource Development		Within Existing Resources
10	Continue to use partnership evaluation criteria to assure that these remain beneficial to the public.	Partnerships		Within Existing Resources
11	Evaluate the usage of the existing trail system. Prioritize addition of amenities along the trails such as site furniture, overlooks, phones and signage as justified by usage.	Greenways		Existing Resources / Grants / Other Donors
12	Expand and formalize a consistent student internship program within the department to promote professional development in the field.	Partnerships		Within Existing Resources
13	Maintain the role of Park Rangers in enhancing Environmental Education programs.	Park Rangers		Within Existing Resources
14	Strengthen our volunteer program to help provide needed additional staffing of facilities, program instructors, maintenance and stewardship assistance.	Partnerships		Within Existing Resources

# Implementation and Action Plan

#	ACTION CATEGORY	RESPONSIBLE DIVISION	COMPLETION DATE	COST
	Ongoing			
15	Strengthen partnerships with Universities to improve planning and management of natural features through mutually beneficial projects.	Land Stewardship / Partnerships / Resource Development		Within Existing Resources
16	Work closely with the planning agencies of adjacent counties to coordinate greenway linkages across jurisdictions.	Greenways / Resource Development		Within Existing Resources





# Implementation and Action Plan

2004 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST			
PROJECT TYPE	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL ESTIMATE
Buildings	Broad Ripple Construction	Construction- Hasser Const. Alteration to Vanity Apron	\$557
Buildings	Eagle Creek - Peace Learning Center	Renovations of Restrooms and Ramp	\$60,000
Buildings	Eagle Creek - Sheriff's Station - Renovations	Renovations to new Ranger Station - Pyramid Const.	\$96,000
Buildings	Eagle Creek - Sheriff's Station - Sonitrol	Install Sonitrol Fire and Burglary System	\$3,685
Buildings	Energy Efficiency lease-purchase	Geneva Capital Leasing	\$157,990
Buildings	Energy Efficiency Service Agreement	HVAC monitoring (Johnson Control)	\$76,470
Buildings	Garfield Park Roof Flashing Design	Garfield Park - Specification Documents	\$500
Buildings	Griffin Estate Land Gift	House Demolition mandated by Health & Hospital	\$15,000
Buildings	Municipal Gardens	Construction Inspection Services	\$2,000
Buildings	Thatcher Chemical Storage Addition	CO # 1 - Modification to the building	\$3,839
Buildings	Thatcher Chemical Storage Addition	CO # 2 - Modification to chemical piping	\$5,191
Buildings	Thatcher Chemical Storage Addition	CO # 3 - Additional electrical work	\$1,875
Sitework	Arsenal Park Water Spray Area Design	Renovate pressure, plumbing, control values	\$6,500
Sitework	Arsenal Park Water Spray Area Construction	Renovate pressure, plumbing, control values	\$12,000
Sitework	Bel Aire Park	Construct Park Amenities: Playground	\$50,000
Sitework	Brookside Park Soccer	Purchase & Install 2 Soccer Goals	\$2,165
Sitework	Brookside Shelter	Install Horseshoe Courts	\$12,000
Sitework	Chuck Klein Ground Water Monitoring	Ceramic Environmental	\$19,148
Sitework	Eagle Creek Lilly Lake Dam	Construction of New Dam	\$100,000
Sitework	Eagle Creek Lilly Lake Dam	Design of Spill Way	\$40,000
Sitework	Eagle Creek Marina Boat Docks	Replace Boat Docks	\$25,000
Sitework	Kessler Historic Park & Blvd. System	Development of Kessler Design Guide Lines	\$4,500
On-Call	On-Call Professional Services for Various Projects	On-Call , Architects, Landscape Architects, Engineering & HVAC	\$43,500

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# Implementation and Action Plan

Contingency	Contingency Fund for all CIP Projects	CIP Budget for unforeseen & owner change orders	\$307,959
Buildings	Lilly Project - Bethel Park	Bethel Park - Purchase of Fixtures & Furnishings	\$50,000
Buildings	Lilly Project - Bethel Park	Storm Water Quality Inspection	\$450
Buildings	Lilly Project - Bethel - Construction	Install Sonitrol Fire and Burglary System	\$4,778
Buildings	Lilly Project - Bethel - Construction - C.O. # 1	Put in Manhole for storm sewer	\$3,300
Buildings	Lilly Project - Bethel - Construction -	Drain Location	\$400
Buildings	Lilly Project - Christian Park	Christian Park - Purchase of Fixtures & Furnishings	\$40,000
Buildings	Lilly Project - Christian - Construction	Install Sonitrol Fire and Burglary System	\$11,507
Buildings	Lilly Project - Christian - Construction	Locate sewer lateral - Pinpoint	\$100
Buildings	Lilly Project - Christian - Construction - C.O. # 1	Additional soil removal - unforeseen due to site conditions	\$34,262
Buildings	Lilly Project - Eagle Crk - Earth Discovery Center - Construction		\$561,844
Buildings	Lilly Project - Eagle Crk - Earth Discovery Center - Construction	IPL- New 3 Phase 120/208 V Earth Discovery Bldg.	\$38,156
Buildings	Eagle Creek Discovery Center	Aquifer Testing at Earth Discovery Center	\$13,200
Buildings	Lilly Project - Eagle Crk - Earth Discovery Center - Construction	Install Sonitrol Fire and Burglary System	\$18,650
Buildings	Lilly Grant - Garfield Park Art Center - Construction	Renovate building & Purchase of Fixtures & Furnishings	\$342,238
Buildings	Lilly Project - Municipal Garden - Furniture and Fixtures	Gymnasium Equipment & Furniture - Bldg. Completion Feb 2004	\$30,627
Buildings	Lilly Project Municipal Garden	Install Sonitrol Fire and Burglary System	\$1,623
Buildings	Lilly Project - Municipal Garden - CO # 1	S & B Construction Estimated C.O. #1	\$12,361
Buildings	Lilly Project - Municipal Garden - CO # 2	S & B Construction Estimated C.O. #2	\$5,498

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# Implementation and Action Plan

Buildings	Lilly Project - Municipal Garden - CO # ?	S & B Construction Estimated Future Change Orders	\$82,753
Buildings	Lilly Project - Rhodius Park	Rhodius Park - Purchase of Fixtures & Furnishings	\$45,000
Buildings	Lilly Project - Rhodius - Construction	Install Sonitrol Fire and Burglary System \$ 4760	\$4,760
Buildings	Washington Center ACS/ISA - CO 1	Connect 5 lines, add 11 jacks, add 3 wall phones	\$989
Buildings	Lilly Project - Wash. Park FF & E	Purchase and install weight equipment FF&E	\$48,462
Greenways/Trails	Eagle Creek Trail from 56th to 46th Street - Gradex, Inc.	Combined with Pike Youth Soccer Project - Total Const Cost \$1,152,321	\$224,321
Greenways/Trails	Pennsy Trail Corridor - Phase One Environmental	Categorical Exclusion Assessment	\$4,500
Greenways/Trails	Pogues Run Art Park - Scoping & Design	Develop project	\$25,000
Greenways/Trails	Town Run Park	Install Emergency Access Culvert	\$80,000
Aquatics	M.L. King Park- UPARR Grant	Repair Pool leak - 24"/day and bath house	\$121,680
Sitework	Broad Ripple Boat Ramp Construction	Install boat dock, bank stabilization measures	\$183,367
Sitework	Broad Ripple Boat Ramp Design	Design boat ramp and bank stabilization	\$40,000
Sitework	Gustafson Park - NFL Grant	Install goal post, score board, fencing, small bridges over swale	\$54,000
Sitework	Southwestway Park	Install trail and related amenities	\$45,000
Sitework	Willard Park - UPARR Grant CO #	Saw cut existing footing edge	\$1,153
Sitework	Willard Park - Required for site drainage	Cleaning of existing storm sewer structure	\$300
		TOTAL	\$3,175,857

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# Implementation and Action Plan

2005 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST		
PROJECT TYPE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL ESTIMATE
Aquatics	General Pool Renovation & Repairs	\$850,000
	Pool Liners	
	Bathhouse Renovations	
	Water Spray Grounds	
Buildings		
	General Building Renovations	\$950,000
	New Roof Renovation	
	HVAC Renovations	
	Electrical Renovations	
	Restroom Renovation	
Sitework		
	Hardcourt Renovations	\$850,000
	Playground Renovation	
	Picnic Shelters	
	Sport Fields	
	Trail & Bridges	
	Water Fountains	
	Parking Lots	
Greenways	Design & Construction Documents	\$850,000
	Grant - Matches	
	Renovation & Repairs	
Golf		
	Dollars from Golf Revenues	
	Renovation & Repairs	\$3,500,000

# Implementation and Action Plan

2006 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST			
PROJECT TYPE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL ESTIMATE	
Aquatics	General Pool Renovation & Repairs	\$850,000	
	Pool Liners		
	Bathhouse Renovations		
	Water Spray Grounds		
Buildings	General Building Renovations	\$950,000	
	New Roof Renovation		
	HVAC Renovations		
	Electrical Renovations		
	Restroom Renovation		
Sitework	Hardcourt Renovations	\$850,000	
	Playground Renovation		
	Picnic Shelters		
	Sport Fields		
	Trail & Bridges		
	Water Fountains		
	Parking Lots		
Greenways	Design & Construction Documents	\$850,000	
	Grant - Matches		
	Renovation & Repairs		
Golf	Dollars from Golf Revenues		
	Renovation & Repairs	\$3,500,000	

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# Implementation and Action Plan

2007 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST		
PROJECT TYPE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL ESTIMATE
Aquatics	General Pool Renovation & Repairs	\$600,000
	Pool Liners	
	Bathroom Renovations	
	Water Spray Grounds	
Buildings		
	General Building Renovations	\$1,100,000
	New Roof Renovation	
	HVAC Renovations	
	Electrical Renovations	
	Restroom Renovation	
Sitework		
	Hardcourt Renovations	\$950,000
	Playground Renovation	
	Picnic Shelters	
	Sport Fields	
	Trail & Bridges	
	Water Fountains	
	Parking Lots	
Greenways	Design & Construction Documents	\$850,000
	Grant - Matches	
	Renovation & Repairs	
Golf		
	Dollars from Golf Revenues	
	Renovation & Repairs	
		\$3,500,000



# Implementation and Action Plan

2008 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST			
PROJECT TYPE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL ESTIMATE	
Aquatics	General Pool Renovation & Repairs	\$600,000	
	Pool Liners		
	Bathhouse Renovations		
	Water Spray Grounds		
Buildings	General Building Renovations	\$1,000,000	
	New Roof Renovation		
	HVAC Renovations		
	Electrical Renovations		
	Restroom Renovation		
Sitework	Hardcourt Renovations	\$1,050,000	
	Playground Renovation		
	Picnic Shelters		
	Sport Fields		
	Trail & Bridges		
	Water Fountains		
	Parking Lots		
Greenways	Design & Construction Documents	\$850,000	
	Grant - Matches		
	Renovation & Repairs		
Golf	Dollars from Golf Revenues		
	Renovation & Repairs	\$3,500,000	

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PAGE 7 OF 7

## GRANTS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

The list to the left is composed of projects that are beyond the ability of Indy Parks' typical capital budget to fund. In these cases, the project's scheduling is contingent on receiving grants or monetary donations toward their construction. It is often the case that a match is required, which would be funded from the recurring capital budget. In recent years, Indy Parks has successfully funded very similar projects through Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants, Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Grants and grants from private endowments. Indy Parks' Grant Coordinator will continue to pursue these avenues over the coming years.



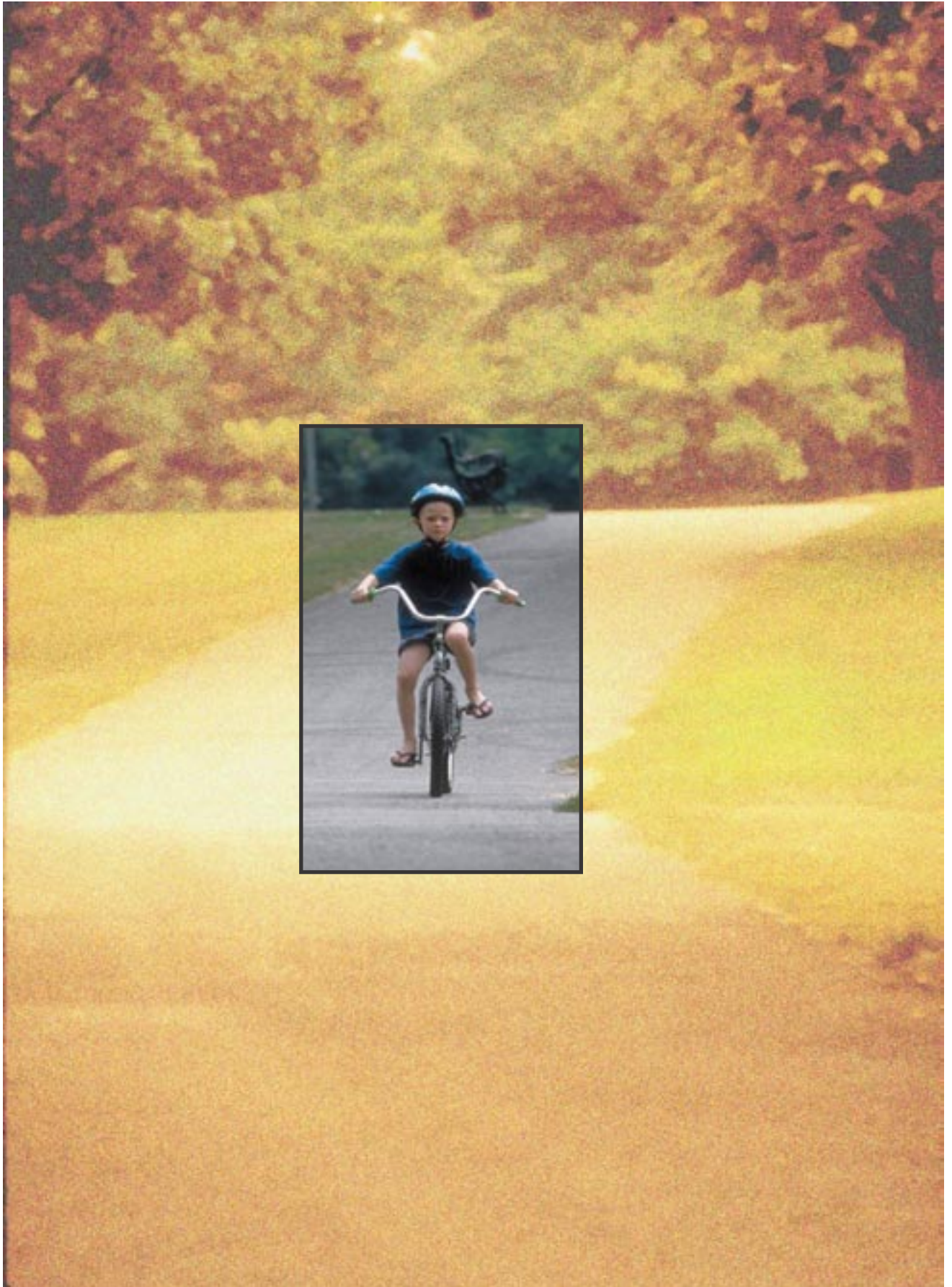
Miscellaneous Projects Contingent on Raising Non-City Funds
<b>Aquatics</b>
Franklin Community Park - Aquatic Center
Southwestway Park - Aquatic Center
<b>Buildings</b>
Windsor Village Park Family Community Center
Ellenberger Park Family Community Center
Douglass Park Community Center Expansion
Watkins Park Community Center Expansion
Krannert Park Community Center Expansion
Southeastway Park Nature Center
Skiles Test Park Nature Center
<b>Sitework</b>
Rev. Mozel Sanders Park Development
Post Road Sports Complex Development
Expand Lake Sullivan Skate Park
<b>Greenways</b>
Eagle Creek Greenway
Pennsy Greenway
B&O Greenway
Lower Fall Creek Greenway
<b>Land Acquisition</b>
Southeastway Park Vicinity
Southern Franklin Township
Western Perry Township
Northern Washington Township

# Implementation and Action Plan

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# Evaluation of Plan

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## HOW WE TRACK OUR EFFORTS

The completion of this Comprehensive Plan is only the next step for Indy Parks on its way to becoming a better agency. How Indy Parks as a system keeps track of what it has accomplished, revisits the directions outlined in the Plan, and continues to follow the action steps outlined in the previous section is as important as the Plan itself. As such, Indy Parks has outlined the following policies and procedures for the ongoing evaluation of this Plan.

### Department Accreditation

Indy Parks will maintain its NRPA accreditation, and thereby continue to meet a wide range of accepted national standards. This designation will be the primary assurance to the public that the Department is being run in a professional manner.

### Planning Update

The Department shall annually review, and update when appropriate, the Five-Year Action Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, and Acquisition Plan. Any update will be presented to the Park Board for review and approval prior to the development of a proposed budget for the following fiscal year. The yearly status and annual update will be submitted to the INDNR-Division of Outdoor Recreation as an addendum to the existing Comprehensive Plan.

### Annual Image/Perception Evaluation

Indy Parks will annually evaluate the agency image and its policies regarding signage, marketing, public relations and logo use.

### Annual Stakeholder Input

Indy Parks will annually solicit input from its Park Advisory Groups, foundations and other partners. These reports, in combinations with input from Township Administrators should assist the Department with setting its direction for the following year.

### Annual Contract Service Evaluation

The Department will annually evaluate contractual services to ensure the completion of all contracted

duties and effectiveness of service.

### Annual Maintenance Review

Indy Parks will annually review maintenance operations, cost, manpower, equipment and supply needs. They will evaluate and review maintenance staff training and make recommendations for enhancement.

### Measuring Customer Satisfaction

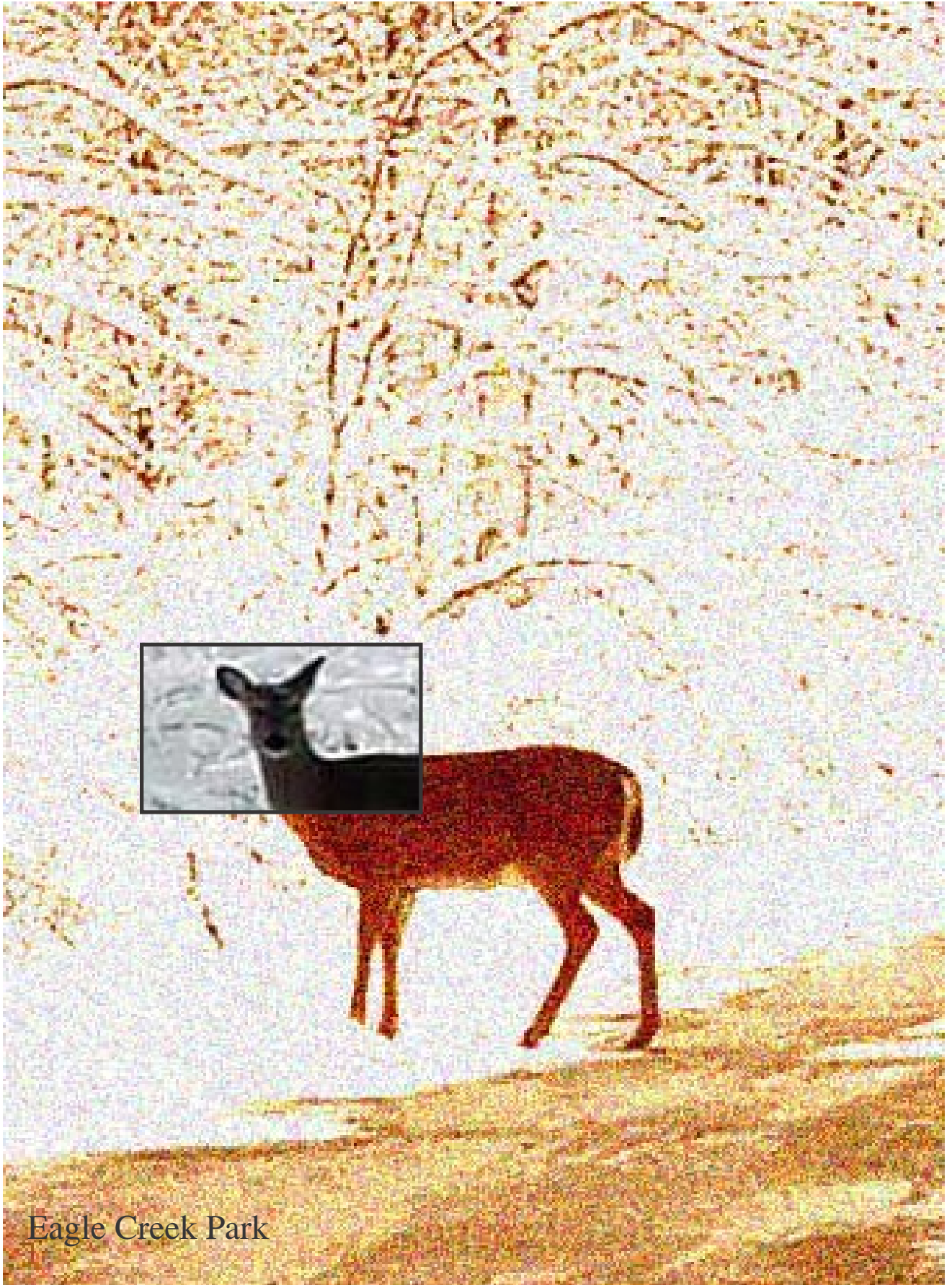
The staff will continue to use measures of success that will include, but are not limited to, attendance, number of trees treated, acres acquired toward goal, accreditation standards and continuing education.

### Foundation Goals

The Indy Parks Foundation shall establish a set of long-term goals in consultation with Director, which emphasizes enhanced improvements and acquisitions for the Department.







Eagle Creek Park



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Fall Creek Loop Trail



# Appendix

## General Resolution No. 9, 2004

### Board of Parks and Recreation Consolidated City of Indianapolis, Indiana

#### Be It Resolved That The Board Hereby Approves:

the adoption of the 2004 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan. This plan recognizes the Department of Parks and Recreation's role as a leader in providing park and recreation opportunities to Marion County residents. The plan was drafted with substantial public involvement and input, and incorporates sound planning principals and staff expertise. The 'Action Steps' portion of the plan is a group of 65 specific actions based upon identified needs in the community that will make the Department a more effective provider of park and recreation services over the next five years.

FURTHER, RESOLVED that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation is hereby authorized and directed to implement the 2004 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan for and on behalf of the Department.


#### BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONSOLIDATED CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

  
Assistant Corporation Counsel

  
Stephanie Seawell, Acting Secretary

04-08-04  
Date

  
Joseph Wynns

  
Diana Wilson Hall

  
Richard J. Cockrum

  
William H. Stinson

  
Jacqueline S. Greenwood



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
John Goss, Director

Division of Outdoor Recreation  
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W271  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2782  
PH: 317/232-4070  
FAX: 317/233-4648

June 10, 2004

Michael Krossschell, Principal Planner  
Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation  
200 East Washington St. Rm. 2301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Krossschell:

We have completed the review of the Indianapolis Parks and Recreation Master Plan. It meets the Department of Natural Resources' requirements for local planning. Your agency will be eligible to apply for grants through the Year 2008. To apply for grants in 2009, a new five-year master plan draft must be submitted by January 15, 2009.

We strongly support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of Outdoor Recreation. If you require further information regarding planning or our grant programs, do not hesitate to contact Susanna Arvin in our office (317 232-4070).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Kress".

Emily Kress  
Director, Division of Outdoor Recreation

An Equal Opportunity Employer  
Printed on Recycled Paper

# Appendix

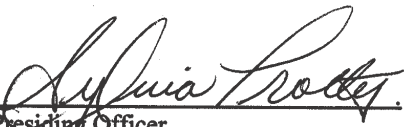
METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA  
RESOLUTION NO. 04-CPS-R-002

RESOLUTION 04-CPS-R-002, amending the Comprehensive or Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana.

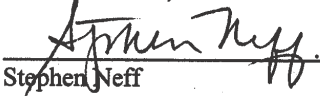
Be it resolved that, pursuant to I.C. 36-7-4, that the Metropolitan Development Commission of Marion County, Indiana, hereby amends the Comprehensive or Master Plan for Marion County, Indiana, by the adoption of the 2004 Indianapolis-Marion County Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as an amendment to the Comprehensive or Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana.

Be it further resolved that the Secretary of the Metropolitan Development Commission is directed to certify copies of this Resolution 04-CPS-R-002, amending the Comprehensive or Master Plan of Marion County, Indiana.

Be it further resolved that the Director of the Department of Metropolitan Development is directed to mail or deliver certified copies of this Resolution 04-CPS-R-002, to the Mayor of the City of Indianapolis, the City-County Council of Indianapolis and Marion County, and the Board of Commissioners of Marion County, Indiana and to the legislative authorities of the incorporated cities and towns of Marion County, Indiana that are directly affected by this plan. The Director shall also file one (1) copy of the Resolution and one (1) summary of the plan in the office of the Recorder of Marion County.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Officer  
Metropolitan Development Commission

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM  
AND ADEQUACY THIS 26<sup>th</sup>  
DAY OF MAY, 2004.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Neff  
Assistant Corporation Counsel



**ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE  
SECTION 504  
OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

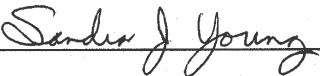
The Dept. of Parks & Recreation (Applicant) has received and read the guidelines for compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 issued by the United State Department of the Interior and will comply with these guidelines and the ACT.

SIGNATURE

  
APPLICANT PRESIDENTJoseph Wynns

(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE

Sandra J. Young

(Secretary's printed name)

DATE March 18, 2004

# Appendix

## Appendix e.

	Comments noted from Public Meetings January 26 to February 3rd.
Lawrence Township	<b><u>GENERAL</u></b>
Monday Jan. 26	Need Water skiing park/ Facility
attendance: 13	Southwestway Park Mountain biking
	Want mountain biking at SWW park & Eagle Creek
	Encourage recycling programs
	Need cultural Education & Recreation
	Need more Land acquisition before all developed
	Need Waterskiing/ Water sports facility
	Need more Park Rangers
	Need to replace old trees in parks
	Need more plant diversity/ species
	Need more greenways
	More nature parks
	Environmental Education Center
	Limit vehicle traffic in Eagle Creek
	Provide place in website for users to submit "wish lists"
	Keep Cross-country @ existing facilities & Add more
	Encourage more historic restoration
	Need more park trails
	Safer greenways
	Greenway connecting Ft. Harrison & Giest
	Interpretive signage
	Safer pedestrianways
Franklin Township	<b><u>GENERAL</u></b>
Wed. Jan. 28	Continue Nature programs @ Southeastway Park "Great"
attendance: 19	SEW needs new nature center
	SEW Land acquisition before all developed
	Southwestway Park Mountain biking
	SWW Trail drift problem, better trail design
	Need more park land county wide
	Need to plan for activities for baby boomers
	Need cultureal Education & Recreation
	Need to serve average user
	Need to be able to attract people here
	More to a job than \$
	Need Waterskiing/ Water sports facility
	Need mountainbiking park on south side IMBA partnership?
	People should be able to ride bikes on Monon after dark
	Want mountain biking at SWW park & Eagle Creek
	Horse riding, bridal paths. Can co-existing with riders, hikers
	Different trails, same trails, SWW & other properties. Uses alternate w/ days of week
	Need canine companion zones on south and east sides
	CCZ's rasie lots of money, were does it go? Why not used to build more?
	Need adult swimming facility, lap pool
	<b><u>PROGRAMS</u></b>
	Keep jazz fest
	Keep movies in parks, do even more
	Keep concerts in parks
	Stay active, nature walks, explore
	Keep lighted fountains @ Garfield park
	Need more Park Rangers
	Eliminate drinking in park
	Rangers need to do courtesy drive bys
	Need more Greenway connections on south side
	S/W side path connections are "patchy"
Center Township	<b><u>GENERAL</u></b>
Thursday Jan. 29	Water ski park

attendance: 20	Boat access to white river
	Boat access on canal
	More parks in perry township
	More land acquisition
	More health / fitness programs
	more bike lanes on roads
	Better/ more Rugby fields
	Water aerobics for kids
	More restrooms
	Document species in nature areas
	more IPS-Parks partnerships
	Programming in new centers
	ADA access at Bethel
	Better ADA access in general
	Wildflower gardens at Municipal
	Safer greenways
	Better maintenance & repairs
	Double Indy Parks budget
Decatur Township	<b><u>GENERAL</u></b>
Mon. Feb. 02	Need Waterskiing/ Water sports facility at Lake Indy
attendance: 45	Aquatics program in Decatur township
	Continue cultural legacy
	Trails/ Greenways in Southern 1/2 of County
	Add land adjacent to Carson Park
	Greenway along Dollarhide creek
	Multi-purpose sports center in Decatur
	Community center in Decatur
	Spray area at Bel-aire Park
	Picnic tables, improved trails, and additional parking at Carson park
	Remove "Death-Circle" @ SWW Park
	ADA playground @ SWW
	Fitness trails @ SWW
	More land acquisition
	Need River access in parks
	Indoor zero-depth entry kiddy pool
	Need more Dog parks, ice skating
	Mountain biking in SWW
	More sports fields/ Courts at all parks
	Alleviate crowded parking
Pike Township	<b><u>GENERAL</u></b>
Tue. Feb. 03	Increase security buy putting fire stations in park land
attendance: 34	Mayor's schools with a park program
	Eagle creek "Free gate entrance days"
	Utilize best use practices
	Partner w/ IUPUI to raise funds
	Aquestrian program at southwestway & other parks
	Aquestrian use on greenways
	Need more Land acquisition before all developed
	Urban investment to prevent :Brain Drain"
	Outdoor ice skating rink
	More volunteers
	Support / Expand fitness programs
	Master naturalist program
	Eliminate paperwork barrier for scholarship programs
	More Drinking fountains
	More channel 16 coverage
	Eliminate geese at Lake Sullivan rugby fields
	More rangers to combat crime
	Multilingual facilities & programs



# Appendix

## Appendix f.

### WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

<b>WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY RESULTS</b>									
<b>General Questions</b>									<b>Totals</b>
1. What do you think about the number of parks?									
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor						
15%	63%	18%	4%						466
2. What do you think about the convenience of park locations?									
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor						
16%	65%	18%	1%						473
3. How good of a job are we doing at the protection of natural areas in parks?									
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor						
16%	59%	20%	4%						457
4. How do you feel about the level of maintenance of parkland, outdoor sports fields/courts, shelter playgrounds, trails and other features?									
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor						
13%	55%	25%	6%						461
5. How do you feel about the level of maintenance of park buildings, indoor athletic courts, weight rooms, classrooms, or other indoor park facilities?									
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor						
9%	59%	29%	4%						402
6. Do you feel that Indy Parks are safe for people to use?									
Yes	No								
87%	13%								473
6. Do you think that parkland should be used for non-recreational purposes, such as the construction of government buildings or locations for non-park related commercial or industrial structures?									
Yes	No								
5%	95%								468
7. How often do you and/or your household members use Indy Park and Recreation facilities, programs or services?									
daily	weekly	monthly							
18%	47%	34%							457
8. In the last 12 months, how many times have you, or any member of your household, used any park, open space, facility, trail or participated in any recreation activity?									
12 or more times	8 to 11 times	5 to 8 times	less than 4 times						
73%	10%	10%	7%						470

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WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY  
RESPONSE SUMMARY

9. How do you or household members find out about programs, services and events at Indy Parks?		Internet		News letter		Radio		Newspaper article		Word of mouth		TV		Visit Center	
Fun Guide	Flyer/poster	Facility brochure	Internet	News letter	Radio	Newspaper article	Word of mouth	TV	Visit Center						
128	66	79	43	52	57	194	170	52	80						921
<b>Recreational Activities</b>															
10. The next section covers your interest in outdoor recreation activities. During the past 12 months, how often did you or a member of your household participate in the following activities?															
		Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never										
Walking or hiking		53%	24%	10%	13%										458
bicycling, roller-blading,		29%	20%	12%	40%										430
Take a dog for a walk		28%	14%	11%	47%										424
Nature Study, bird-watching		15%	21%	25%	38%										417
playground equipment		14%	22%	22%	41%										437
Golf		13%	13%	12%	62%										415
Fishing		11%	12%	15%	62%										412
Mountain biking		10%	7%	11%	72%										357
team sports		10%	13%	15%	62%										420
pool or aquatic center		10%	16%	24%	50%										414
Motor-boating, sailing		9%	10%	15%	66%										393
picnicking		8%	37%	32%	23%										447
Canoeing/Rowing		7%	16%	20%	58%										403
special event		6%	33%	32%	29%										418
Sledding		6%	16%	22%	56%										411
outdoor theatrical, musical or		5%	22%	26%	47%										412
outdoor movie in the park		4%	11%	20%	66%										387
Frisbee		4%	14%	19%	63%										392
Horseback riding		3%	5%	12%	81%										396
tennis		2%	7%	19%	72%										419
Ice-skating or play hockey		2%	7%	19%	72%										392
Horseshoes		1%	3%	14%	83%										399

# Appendix

## WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

11. This next question covers your interest in indoor recreation activities. During the past 12 months, how often did you or a member of your household participate in the following activities?		Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never		
Fitness activities		17%	12%	11%	60%		417
Reading area or library		13%	14%	10%	63%		408
Team sport instructional		8%	6%	7%	79%		425
Musical classes		6%	8%	9%	78%		393
Visual arts classes, exhibits		4%	8%	15%	73%		407
Adult educational programs		4%	9%	15%	72%		412
Computer lab area		4%	8%	8%	81%		386
Drop-in basketball		3%	4%	5%	87%		403
Drama/theatrical classes		3%	4%	8%	85%		399
Arts and craft programs		3%	8%	12%	77%		404
Youth development		3%	6%	7%	84%		399
Dance classes		2%	5%	6%	86%		407
After school programs		2%	3%	4%	91%		372
Rental of facility space		2%	8%	14%	76%		393
Game room		2%	3%	6%	89%		386
Gymnastics or tumbling		2%	3%	7%	88%		396
Day camp		2%	4%	5%	90%		380
Drop-in volleyball		2%	2%	6%	91%		391
Martial art classes		1%	3%	4%	92%		399
Adaptive sports		1%	1%	3%	95%		396
Boxing		0%	1%	4%	96%		394
Fencing		0%	1%	3%	96%		391
12. Do you utilize programs for seniors over 55+? If so, which ones?							
Active sport or skill	Social programs						
	Educational program						
35%	25%	28%	12%				57

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[illegible]

# WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

PRODUCED BY: DPR PLANNING

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# Appendix

# WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY RESPONSE SUMMARY

[illegible]

PRODUCED BY: DPR PLANNING

PAGE 7 OF 9

WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY  
RESPONSE SUMMARY[illegible]

# Appendix

WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY  
RESPONSE SUMMARY

Group		Mailed	Bad Addresses	Net Distributed	Tabulated through 2.25.04	Came in Late	Total Completed	% Completed	
A	Golf Pass Holders	59	1	58	16	0	16	27.6%	
B	Eagle Creek Park Passholders	3594	976	2618	206	18	224	8.6%	
C	Other Park Program Participants	536	17	519	40	9	49	9.4%	
D	Random County Residents	3001	126	2875	119	21	140	4.9%	
E	Neighborhood Organizations	576	0	576	31	12	43	7.5%	
		7766	1120	6646	412	60	472	7.1%	
CE	City Employees				69	22	91		
TA	Distributed by Township Administrators				3	3	6		
TOTAL					484	85	569		

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## WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY VERBATIM RESPONSE SUMMARY

Question	% of Respondents	Type of Response	Number of Responses
6. Do you feel that most Indy Parks are safe for people to use? If no why?			63
	32%	Specific Instance Cited	20
	29%	Need increased Park Ranger Presence	18
	21%	miscellaneous	13
	13%	Unsafe after Dark	8
	6%	Parks in unsafe neighborhoods	4
13. What other recreation and park facilities or programs would you like to see developed by Indy Parks?			196
	30%	Park Trails-Greenways	59
	16%	Active Programs	32
	10%	Dogparks	19
	10%	Misc.	19
	9%	Natural Areas	17
	8%	Outdoor-Nature Programs	15
	5%	Aquatic Facilities	10
	3%	Ice Skating	6
	3%	Self Enrichment	5
	2%	Water-skiing	4
	2%	Skateparks	4
	2%	Better Publicity	3
	2%	Cultural Events	3
16. Which of the following types of transportation does your household primarily use to get to park facilities?			2
	100%	Miscellaneous	2
17. Are you using Indy Parks as often as you would like? If no Why?			202
	48%	Not enough time in Schedule	97
	19%	Park is too far from home	38
	13%	Misc.	26
	6%	Park is inaccessible	13
	6%	Not well publicized	12
	4%	Safety Issues	8
	2%	Too expensive	5
	1%	Not interested	3
18. Do consider Indy Parks & Recreation activities accessible? If no, please provide a brief statement illustrating how Indy Parks can improve			20
	35%	Need better publicity	7
	35%	Miscellaneous	7
	10%	Park hours prohibit use	2
	10%	Features need renovation for ADA	2
	10%	Park cannot be physically accessed from home	2
19. What type of recreation services could Indy Parks provide that would help this person participate in recreation activities?			79
	29%	Active Programs and Activities	23
	20%	Improved Trails-Sidewalks	16
	15%	Specific Physical Improvement	12
	10%	Miscellaneous	8
	9%	Better Publicity	7
	9%	Outdoor-Nature Programs	7
	8%	Activities for Seniors	6

# Appendix

## WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY VERBATIM RESPONSE SUMMARY

Question	% of Respondents	Type of Response	Number of Responses
22. Please list the name of the aquatic facility which you, or your household, use most frequently?			188
	16%	Krannert Park	30
	14%	Non-Indy Parks Facility	27
	14%	Northwestway Park	26
	11%	Eagle Creek Reservoir	20
	10%	Indy Island	18
	7%	Thatcher Park	14
	6%	Garfield Park	12
	4%	Broad Ripple Park	8
	4%	Perry Park	8
	3%	Ellenberger Park	6
	3%	Sahm Park	6
	3%	Riverside Park	5
	1%	Gustafson Park	2
	1%	LaShonna Bates Aquatic Center	2
	1%	Brookside Park	1
	1%	Rhodus Park	1
	1%	Wes Montgomery Park	1
	1%	White River	1
26. What does your household think is the most important feature that needs to be added or improved at the pool?			109
	44%	Specific Physical Improvements	48
	17%	Better Maintenance	18
	13%	Change in Hours of Operation	14
	9%	Programming Improvements	10
	9%	Miscellaneous	10
	5%	Change in Water Temperature	5
	4%	Safety Improvements	4
27. Please list any programs and/or services your household would like to see offered at the aquatic facility.			42
	55%	Programming Improvements	23
	19%	Change in Hours of Operation	8
	14%	Miscellaneous	6
	12%	Specific Physical Improvements	5

## WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY VERBATIM RESPONSE SUMMARY

Question	% of Respondents	Type of Response	Number of Responses
28. Please list the name of the family center which you, or your household, use most frequently?			122
	17%	Krannert Park	21
	16%	Eagle Creek Park	19
	13%	Broad Ripple Park	16
	13%	Garfield Park	16
	10%	Holliday Park	12
	9%	Non Indy Parks Facilities	11
	5%	Southeastway park	6
	5%	Thatcher Park	6
	3%	Riverside Park	4
	2%	Christian Park	3
	2%	Municipal Gardens Park	2
	2%	Watkins	2
	1%	Brookside	1
	1%	Indy Island	1
	1%	Pride Park	1
	1%	Rhodus Park	1
31. Please list your household's favorite activities at the center, such as games, nature education, classes, etc..			100
	23%	Nature Education	23
	15%	Generic Responses	15
	13%	Basketball	13
	12%	Nature Walks	12
	10%	Miscellaneous	10
	7%	Aquatics Programs	7
	6%	Dance Programs	6
	6%	Weight Room	6
	2%	Bird Watching	2
	2%	Cheerleading	2
	2%	Playground	2
	2%	Spanish Classes	2
32. What does your household think is the most important feature that needs to be added or improved at the family center?			56
	29%	Specific Physical Improvement	16
	25%	Programming Improvements	14
	14%	Fitness Related Physical Improvement	8
	13%	Miscellaneous	7
	7%	Maintenance Improvements	4
	5%	Marketing Improvements	3
	4%	Staffing Changes	2
	4%	Fee Reductions	2
33. Please list any programs and/or services your household would like to see offered at the family center			35
	31%	Fitness Related Programs	11
	23%	Passive, social programs	8
	17%	Outdoor Education Programs	6
	14%	Miscellaneous	5
	9%	Team Sports Programs	3
	6%	Aquatics Programs	2

# Appendix

## WINTER 2004 COMP PLAN SURVEY VERBATIM RESPONSE SUMMARY

Question	% of Respondents	Type of Response	Number of Responses
36. Please list the name of the golf course which you, or your household, use most frequently?			132
	32%	Eagle Creek	42
	14%	Non Indy Parks Facilities	18
	10%	Pleasant Run	13
	10%	Riverside	13
	8%	Sahm	11
	6%	Coffin	8
	5%	Thatcher	6
	4%	Sarah Shank	5
	4%	South Grove	5
	4%	Winding River	5
	2%	Douglass	2
	2%	Smock	2
	1%	Riverside Academy	1
	1%	Whispering Hills	1
38. What single factor is most important to you in choosing a particular golf course			106
	40%	Location	42
	17%	Green Fees	18
	14%	Condition of Course	15
	12%	Challenge	13
	9%	Availability	10
	8%	Miscellaneous	8
41. If yes, why do you use this course and not the course closer to your home?			21
	100%	Miscellaneous	21
47. What is your age?			450
		Average Age of Respondents	49.5
	1%	Respondent 10-19	4
	8%	Respondent 20-29	35
	16%	Respondent 30-39	71
	25%	Respondent 40-49	113
	27%	Respondent 50-59	120
	16%	Respondent 60-69	72
	5%	Respondent 70-79	24
	2%	Respondent 80-89	11



## Appendix g.

### Indy Parks User Survey

This survey contains general and specific questions that we at Indy Parks have about you, the park user. We strive to provide the best service that we can with our parks and greenways, and your input is essential. The answers you provide will be incorporated into the plan that we will work from for the next five years, and help us to focus our efforts on the most critical aspects of what you desire in your parks. Thank you for your participation.

#### General Questions

1. What do you think about the number of Parks?  
☐ Excellent    ☐ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Poor
2. What do you think about the convenience of park locations?  
☐ Excellent    ☐ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Poor
3. How good of a job are we doing at the protection of natural areas in parks?  
☐ Excellent    ☐ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Poor
4. How do you feel about the level of maintenance of parkland, outdoor sports fields/courts, shelters playgrounds, trails or other outdoor features?  
☐ Excellent    ☐ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Poor
5. How do you feel about the level of maintenance of park buildings, indoor athletic courts, weight rooms, classrooms, or other indoor park facilities?  
☐ Excellent    ☐ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Poor
6. Do you feel that most Indy Parks are safe for people to use?  
☐ Yes    ☐ If No, why? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you think parkland should be used for non-recreational purposes, such as construction of government buildings or locations for non-park related commercial or industrial structures?  
☐ Yes    ☐ No
7. How often do you and/or your household members use Indy Park and Recreation facilities, programs or services?  
☐ daily    ☐ weekly    ☐ monthly
8. In the last 12 months, how many times have you, or any member of your household, used any park, open space, facility, trail or participated in any recreation activity?  
☐ 12 or more times    ☐ 8 to 11 times    ☐ 5 to 8 times    ☐ less than 4 times
9. How do you or household members find out about programs, services and events at Indy Parks?  
☐ Fun Guide    ☐ Flyer/poster    ☐ Facility brochure    ☐ Internet    ☐ News letter  
☐ Radio    ☐ Newspaper article    ☐ Word of mouth    ☐ TV    ☐ Visit Center

#### Recreational Activities

10. This next section covers your interest in outdoor recreation activities. During the past 12 months, how often did you or a member of your household participate in the following activities?

	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Go picnicking .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use playground equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participate in team sports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play tennis .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pitch Horseshoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Appendix

Go bicycling, roller-blading, or Skateboarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go Mountain biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go Ice-skating or play hockey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go Walking or hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go Motor-boating, sailing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go Canoeing/Rowing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go Sledding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit a pool or aquatic center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utilize an outdoor spray area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Play Frisbee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend a special event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend an outdoor theatrical, musical or dance event	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attend an outdoor movie in the park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take a dog for a walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature Study, including bird-watching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. This next question covers your interest in indoor recreation activities. During the past 12 months, how often did you or a member of your household participate in the following activities?

	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Fitness activities such as aerobics, yoga, palates, kick boxing, weight training or Indy in Motion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gymnastics or tumbling classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dance classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martial art classes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boxing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Team sport instructional and competitive Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adaptive sports programs such as wheelchair basketball, or power soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and craft programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drama/theatrical classes or performances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Musical classes or performances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visual arts classes, exhibits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult educational, prevention or self-enrichment programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth development/education/academic assistance/prevention programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drop-in basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drop-in volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Game room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading area or library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer lab area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rental of facility space for private events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After school programs offered at Indy Park or School locations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day camp and school break camps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Do you utilize programs for seniors 55+? If so which ones?

- ☐ Active sport or skills program
 ☐ Social programs
 ☐ Educational programs
 ☐ Trips out of town

13. What other recreation and park facilities or programs would you like to see developed by Indy Parks?

## **Accessibility**

14. Is there currently a public park and recreation facility in your immediate neighborhood; within a five or ten minute walk from your home?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
15. How far would you be willing to travel to a park to participate in a program or event?  
☐ Two blocks to a mile ☐ Over a mile ☐ Wouldn't travel to one
16. Which of the following types of transportation does your household primarily use to get to park facilities?  
☐ Automobile ☐ Walk or run ☐ Ride a bike ☐ Take a bus  
☐ Take a taxi ☐ In-line skates or skateboard ☐ Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_
17. Are you using Indy Parks as often as you would like?  
☐ Yes ☐ If No, why? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Do consider Indy Parks & Recreation activities accessible?  
☐ Yes ☐ If no, please provide a brief statement illustrating how Indy Parks can improve.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
19. What type of recreation services could Indy Parks provide that would help this person participate in recreation activities? \_\_\_\_\_
20. How important are fitness loop trails located within parks?  
☐ Very important ☐ Somewhat important ☐ Somewhat unimportant ☐ Very unimportant
21. How important are nature trails within the parks, such as those at Holiday, Eagle Creek, and Southwestway?  
☐ Very important ☐ Somewhat important ☐ Somewhat unimportant ☐ Very unimportant

## **Aquatics Facilities**

22. Please list the name of the aquatic facility which you, or your household, use most frequently? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Please rate the following aspects of this aquatic facility
- |  | Excellent                | Very Good                | Good                     | Just Okay                | Poor                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The quality of aquatic facility _____                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Overall safety in and around the aquatic facility _____          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The overall cleanliness of the aquatic facility _____            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The overall quality of maintenance at the aquatic facility _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The quality of aquatic programs offered _____                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The hours of operation _____                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The professionalism of staff _____                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The ease of fee collection _____                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The ease of the program registration process _____               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
24. Relative to your expectations, what is your overall opinion regarding the aquatic facility above?  
☐ Much better than expected ☐ Worse than expected  
☐ Better than expected ☐ Much worse than expected  
☐ About what expected
25. Please select your household's favorite kinds of activity at the aquatic facility  
☐ Spray pools ☐ Lap swim ☐ Waterslides ☐ Swim lessons  
☐ Aqua aerobics ☐ Open swim
26. What does your household think is the most important feature that needs to be added or improved at the pool?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
27. Please list any programs and/or services your household would like to see offered at the aquatic facility.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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## Family Centers

28. Please list the name of the family center which you, or your household, use most frequently? \_\_\_\_\_

29. Please rate the following aspects of this family center

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Just Okay	Poor
The cleanliness of the facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quality of recreational facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quality of recreational equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The professionalism of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The hours of operation of the center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall safety in the center and in the grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information available about the overall park system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The overall level of facility maintenance at the center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quality of recreation programs provided in the center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The ease with which fees are collected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The friendliness and helpfulness of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Usefulness of the family center brochures about the facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

30. Relative to your expectations, what is your overall opinion regarding the family center above?

- ☐ Much better than expected      ☐ Better than expected      ☐ About what expected  
☐ Worse than expected      ☐ Much worse than expected

31. Please list your household's favorite activities at the center, such as games, nature education, classes, etc..

32. What does your household think is the most important feature that needs to be added or improved at the family center? \_\_\_\_\_

33. Please list any programs and/or services your household would like to see offered at the family center. \_\_\_\_\_

34. Would you or members of your household be more likely to attend programs, or events held at centers

- ☐ during the day on weekdays      ☐ during the evening on weekdays      ☐ during the day on Saturday  
☐ Saturday evenings      ☐ during the day on Sunday      ☐ Sunday evenings

35. What factors, if any, limit your participation in recreation programs?

- ☐ not enough time      ☐ program expense too high      ☐ did not know about program  
☐ not interested in programs offered      ☐ program is too far away, no transportation available

## Golf Courses

36. Please list the name of the golf course which you, or your household, use most frequently? \_\_\_\_\_

37. Please rate the following aspects of this golf course

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Just Okay	Poor
Usefulness of the printed information about the course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quality of clubhouse and grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall playing conditions of the course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The overall quality of maintenance on the course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The quality of players' services such as ranges provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
on the course	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The fees charged for play in comparison to the quality of experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

38. What single factor is most important to you in choosing a particular golf course?

39. Relative to your expectations, what is your overall opinion regarding the golf course above?

- ☐ Much better than expected      ☐ Better than expected      ☐ About what expected  
☐ Worse than expected      ☐ Much worse than expected

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40. Are there any golf courses closer to your home than the above golf course?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
41. If yes, why do you use this course and not the course closer to your home?  
☐ Better price ☐ Better facilities ☐ Meet a friend ☐ Variety of playing conditions  
☐ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
42. Would you be willing to pay more to use the golf course if it meant improved playing conditions; such as cart paths, irrigation systems, better turf conditions; and player services, such as full-time rangers, or beverage carts?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
43. If yes, how much more would you be willing to pay per 18 hole round of golf?  
☐ Less than 1.00 ☐ \$1.00 to \$1.99 ☐ \$2.00 to \$2.99 ☐ \$3.00 to \$3.99  
☐ \$4.00 or more

## **Demographics**

These questions pertain to personal information about you and are used for demographics use only.

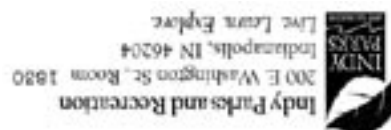
44. What township do you live in?  
☐ Center ☐ Decatur ☐ Franklin ☐ Lawrence ☐ Perry  
☐ Pike ☐ Warren ☐ Washington ☐ Wayne
45. What are the major intersecting streets closest to your residence? \_\_\_\_\_
46. Are you male or female?  
☐ Male ☐ Female
47. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_
48. Please check the box that best describes your total household income before taxes in 2003.  
☐ Under \$15,000 ☐ \$30,001 - \$45,000 ☐ \$60,000 or more  
☐ \$15,001 - \$30,000 ☐ \$45,001 - \$60,000
49. Including yourself, how many members are there in your household in the following age groups?  
Adults 64 & older \_\_\_\_\_ Adults 18 - 39 years \_\_\_\_\_ Children 6 - 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Adults 40-63 years \_\_\_\_\_ Children 12 - 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Children under 6 years \_\_\_\_\_
50. Please indicate if you rent or own your home  
☐ Own ☐ Rent

## **Public Meeting Dates:**

Round 1 - Introduction & Fact-Finding Meetings For the new 5 year plan

If you would like to input further please attend one the following public meeting forums.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Monday, January 26th / 7:00pm    | Lawrence North High School - Cafeteria<br>7802 Hague Road (Use main entrance off of Hague Road)                              |
| Wednesday, January 28th / 7:00pm | Franklin Township Civic League<br>8822 Southeastern Ave  |
| Thursday, January 29th / 7:00pm  | Indianapolis Zoo - Education Center<br>1200 West Washington Street (Entrance next to the zoo's ticket booths)                |
| Monday, February 2nd / 7:00pm    | Decatur Middle School - Large Group Instruction Room<br>5108 South High School Road (Entrance on West side of Middle School) |
| Tuesday, February 3rd / 7:00pm   | Pike High School - Cafeteria<br>5401 West 71st Street (Use Main Entrance off of 71st St)                                     |

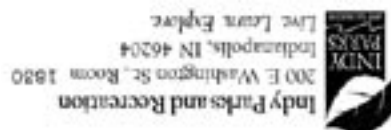


## Thank you!

Your input helps us plan for the future, and continue to provide a first class Parks and Recreation system that our city can be proud of.

To return this survey simply refold it so that Indy Parks appears as the recipient, then seal the bottom with a piece of tape (Please do not use staples!), and drop into any U.S. postal service mail box. We hope to see you at the public meetings

Indy Parks and Recreation  
200 E. Washington St., Room 1830  
Indianapolis, IN 46204



## Appendix h.

### **Indy Parks Partners in 2003**

- 1 The Family Inc.
- 2 Body Dynamics-George Britton-Riverside
- 3 Irvington Guild of Artist
- 4 Rosewalk at Lutherwoods
- 5 Irvington Garden Club
- 6 Dad's Club Football
- 7 Kevin Merriweather
- 8 ABC Beauty College
- 9 Abundance of Praise Christian Drama Inc.
- 10 Academy Soccer
- 11 All Block Count Neighborhood Association
- 12 American Heritage Theater Project
- 13 American Heritage Theatre Project in association with Muncie Civic Theatre
- 14 American Legion Post # 249
- 15 Amos Butler Audubon Society
- 16 Bob Chambers - Sarge Johnson Boxing Club
- 17 Boys & Girls Club of Indianapolis
- 18 Bradford Woods
- 19 Broad Ripple Village Association (BRVA)
- 20 C.O.G.I.C Athletics
- 21 Canterbury Neighborhood Association
- 22 Capital City Seventh Adventist School
- 23 Cardinal Ritter High School
- 24 Carlos Ramirez-Rios
- 25 Catch The Fever Basketball Camp
- 26 Central Indiana Wilderness Club (CIWC)
- 27 Chris Hall
- 28 Christel House Academy
- 29 Christian Co-Ed Softball League
- 30 Circle City Aquarium Club
- 31 Club Deportivo Latino
- 32 College Park Baptist Church
- 33 Continental Soccer League of Indiana
- 34 Dale Johnson's Basketball League
- 35 Daniel Winston
- 36 Dave Currier
- 37 Department of Natural Resources
- 38 Devington Communities Association, Inc.

# Appendix

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## **Indy Parks Partners in 2003**

- 39 Divers Supply
- 40 Earth Day Indiana, Inc.
- 41 East Side Reunion Summer 2003
- 42 ELH ENTERPRIZES
- 43 Friends of Garfield Park, Inc.
- 44 G 'Sports
- 45 Garden City Elementary School
- 46 Garden Club of Indiana
- 47 Green Thumb Garden Club
- 48 Hines Shotokan Karate
- 49 Holy Faith Ministries
- 50 Hook Rehabilitation Center
- 51 Hoosier Orchid Society
- 52 Hope International Ministries
- 53 Humane Society of Indianapolis
- 54 IATBA(Indiana Athletic Teen Basketball Association)
- 55 IDEM-Planning and Assement
- 56 IDEM-VRP
- 57 Indiana Daffodil Society
- 58 Indiana Department of Environmental Management-Commissioners Office
- 59 Indiana Department Of Environmnetal Mangement -State clean-up
- 60 Indiana Orchid Society
- 61 Indiana Organic Growers Association
- 62 Indiana State Beekeepers Association
- 63 Indiana State Museum
- 64 Indianapolis Bonsai Club
- 65 Indianapolis Christian School
- 66 Indianapolis Cultural Arts League
- 67 Indianapolis Flycasters
- 68 Indianapolis Hosta Society
- 69 Indianapolis Jr Ice
- 70 Indianapolis Jr Ice Squirt All Stars
- 71 Indianapolis Junior Ice Hockey Association
- 72 Indianapolis OASIS
- 73 Indianapolis Rose Society
- 74 Indy African Violet Society
- 75 Infinite Inc.
- 76 International Soccer League



## **Indy Parks Partners in 2003**

- 77 Int'l F. & A. M. Masons St John Lodge No. 56
- 78 Iota Phi Beta Fraternity
- 79 IUPUI Hockey Team
- 80 Jeff Miller
- 81 Joy's House
- 82 Kevin Merriweather
- 83 Kevin Thomas and Alec Parrish
- 84 Krannert Swim Parents Club
- 85 Lamont Dixon
- 86 Laughing Squares
- 87 Lawrence North/ MSD of Lawrence Township
- 88 Linda Cooper
- 89 Mad Science of North Central Indiana
- 90 Mad Science of North Central Indiana
- 91 Madame Walker Theatre Center
- 92 Marty Hadley
- 93 Master Gardeners
- 94 Melvin Blakey, A & M Vending
- 95 Michael Hubbard
- 96 Mike Jones' Boxing Club
- 97 Mike Lynn
- 98 Morning Dove Riding Inc.
- 99 Mr. Daniel Winston
- 100 National Federation of State High School Associations
- 101 National Institute for Fitness and Sport
- 102 Near East Side Community Organization
- 103 New Jerusalem Outreach
- 104 New Life Baptist Church
- 105 Northeastwood Neighbors Association
- 106 OAR/PACE ROI PROGRAM
- 107 OASIS Indianapolis
- 108 Old Centrum Foundation Summer Day Camp
- 109 one earth festival L.L.C.
- 110 One Hundred Black Men
- 111 One Stop Laundry
- 112 Orchard in Bloom Garden Show
- 113 PACE/OAR
- 114 PAL(Police Athletic League) Club

# Appendix

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## **Indy Parks Partners in 2003**

- 115 Papa John's Pizza
- 116 Park Tudor School
- 117 PJ Martin
- 118 Plainfield Fury United Soccer Club
- 119 Power Soccer of Indiana
- 120 Providence Ministries
- 121 Ray Nance
- 122 Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana
- 123 Riverside Community Oddbreakers
- 124 Salvation Army Harbor Light Center
- 125 Scrabble Club
- 126 Shakespeare & More Theatre Company of Central Indiana
- 127 Shephard Community
- 128 Southern Cross Masonic Lodge
- 129 Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging
- 130 St. Philip Neri
- 131 Stalings Volleyball Club - Indianapolis
- 132 Star/Quest for Excellence
- 133 Steve Chaillard
- 134 Steven Barnett - American Legion Post # 249
- 135 Stringtown Neighborhood Association
- 136 Susquehanna Radio GOLD 104.5 FM
- 137 Suzanne Hawthorne
- 138 Tammy Haley
- 139 Temple of Praise Assembly
- 140 Trinity Lodge #18
- 141 VR Enterprises
- 142 Westminster United Presbyterian Church
- 143 Westside Neighborhood Association
- 144 Wild Birds Unlimited
- 145 Y-Dizzle Entertainment Men's Hoop League
- 146 YMCA URBAN YOUTH
- 147 Young Men , Inc.
- 148 Youth On Line Incorporated

## Appendix i.

Indy Parks sets series of public meetings

Page 1 of 2


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# STAR SOUTH

## Indy Parks sets series of public meetings

**Star report**  
January 21, 2004

A series of public meetings is scheduled to help Indy Parks and Recreation update its comprehensive plan.

Franklin Township will be the site of some of the meetings.

The update is to the 1999 "Pathways to the Future: A Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan," which guides the development of Indy Parks' facilities and programs and the future direction of the department.

Public meetings will be divided into two rounds. At the first set of meetings, Indy Parks will listen to public comment. At the second set, officials will present a plan drafted in response to public feedback.

Each set of meetings will be identical in format and presentation to ensure consistency for residents throughout Marion County.

"We look to the public for input on how we're doing and to make sure we're on the right track to meet the growing recreational needs of the increasing Marion County population," said Joseph Wynns, Indy Parks director.

Meetings will be at:

- 7 p.m. Monday and March 15, Lawrence North High School cafeteria, 7802 Hague Road.
- 7 p.m. Jan. 28 and March 17, Franklin Township Civic League, 8822 Southeastern Ave.
- 7 p.m. Jan. 29 and March 18, Indianapolis Zoo, 1200 W. Washington St.
- 7 p.m. Feb. 2 and March 22, Decatur Middle School, large group instruction room, 5108 S. High School Road (west entrance).
- 7 p.m. Feb. 3 and March 23, Pike High School cafeteria, 5401 W. 71st St. (main entrance off of 71st).

For more information, contact Tim Shaw, Indy Parks and Recreation Resource Development Division, 1-317-327-5718 or [tshaw@indygov.org](mailto:tshaw@indygov.org).

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1/22/2004

# Appendix

This mailer was sent to 2,000 residents and all registered neighborhood organizations.

## **Round 1 - Introduction & Fact Finding Meetings**

Monday, January 26th / 7:00pm	Lawrence North High School - Cafeteria 7802 Hague Road (Use main entrance off of Hague Road)
Wednesday, January 28th / 7:00pm	Franklin Township Civic League 8822 Southeastern Ave
Thursday, January 29th / 7:00pm	Indianapolis Zoo - Education Center 1200 West Washington Street (Entrance next to the zoo's ticket booths)
Monday, February 2nd / 7:00pm	Decatur Middle School - Large Group Instruction Room 5108 South High School Road (Entrance on West side of Middle School)
Tuesday, February 3rd / 7:00pm	Pike High School - Cafeteria 5401 West 71st Street (Use Main Entrance off of 71st St)

## **Round 2 - Presentation of Findings and Wrap-Up Meetings**

Monday, March 15th / 7:00pm	Lawrence North High School 7802 Hague Road (Use main entrance off of Hague Road)
Wednesday, March 17th / 7:00pm	Indianapolis Zoo - Education Center 1200 West Washington Street (Entrance next to the zoo's ticket booths)
Thursday, March 18th / 7:00pm	Franklin Township Civic League 8822 Southeastern
Monday, March 22nd / 7:00pm	Pike High School - Cafeteria 5401 West 71st Street (Use Main Entrance off of 71st St)
Tuesday, March 23rd / 7:00pm	Decatur Middle School - Large Group Instruction Room 5108 South High School Road (Entrance on West side of Middle School)

*"How can we prepare for our future without taking stock of our past?"*

You are invited to attend an upcoming series of public meetings to discuss the 2004 update to the Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

The comprehensive plan will guide the development of Indy Parks and Recreation facilities and programs for the next five years, and therefore it is essential that we have your participation in this planning process.

The agenda for the first set of meetings (Round 1) will be to discuss the planning process and to gather public feedback. The second set of meetings (Round 2) will be to present what Indy Parks has developed in response to the public feedback, and to discuss methods to achieving these goals and objectives. Each set of meetings will be identical in format and presentation to ensure consistency for residents throughout Marion County.

Indy Parks values public input, and encourages you to take part in this public process. Your attendance will not only offer new ideas for the city's parks and recreation programs, but will also challenge Indy Parks to continue to meet the increasing recreational and leisure needs of a growing Marion County population.

We look forward your attendance. For more information, please contact Tim Shaw, Indy Parks and Recreation Resource Division, at 327-5718 or [tashaw@indygov.org](mailto:tashaw@indygov.org).